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The Editor's Forum

Thanks to Tim Stoddard, I had the chance to "play" with a ZX81 the past two months. But, this was no ordinary ZX. Tim generously loaned me his "scraped-up" ZX81 demo at the TS Computer Fest. This computer contained the internal 64k RAM modification that is described in his issue; plus attached to the rear bus, was his proto-type D.A.M. board (Data Acquisition Module). If you remember (see Jan/Feb '87 and March/April '87 issues of TDM) the board contains an analog-to-digital converter, a digital-to-analog converter, and a real time

clock. With the software that Tim had written, our demo could measure a room temperature reading from a small probe mounted at the top of the D.A.M. board, and display the reading on the screen. Also, a voltage in the range of 0 to 2.55 could be selected and typed in at the keyboard. The selected value would be printed on the screen and could be measured with a meter at two pins on the D.A.M. board. Not to mention that the real-time clock continuously displayed the date and time. All of this operated at the same time on just one little '81 ZX81.

However, the most amazing thing was that Tim's computer didn't behave like the ZX81 I used to have. Let me explain. When Stephanie and I arrived at the Holiday Inn on Friday, the day before the show, we had a chance to set up early. I went ahead and put together the computer demo to make sure everything was going to work properly. Accidentally, the ZX was left plugged-in overnight. The next morning (the day of the show) when I discovered it, the computer was just barely warm. It "fired up" ok...no problems. During that day, the guests arrived and literally crossed into the exhibit room. With all of the computers and monitors (and warm bodies), the room temperature soared to 85°F (until some kind soul fixed the air conditioner). The ZX81 never once overheated or crashed it's program during the entire Fest! Something could be said of Tim's efficient internal 64k RAM design and the proper heat-sinking he used.

Along with the RAM upgrade article, we have news and photographs from the 1987 Midwest TS Computer Fest. Attending the Fest has made this issue come out a bit late. For this I apologize...but we should be back on track next issue. Also, a few of our features have been postponed until the next issue. For example Paul Bingham was to have the second installment of his CLASSY FRONT END series published in this issue. But I gave Paul some time off for a very good reason—he had a new addition to his family. A new son, Spencer Christian Bingham, was born on April 21st. Congratulations to a proud Dad and Mom. We'll see Paul back again next issue.

In closing, I might add that if there is something special you would like to see printed in an upcoming issue (perhaps an article or program for your computer in an area of special interest), just drop me a short note, and I'll see what I can do. Until then, "Happy Computing" and "don't give up on the chip!"

Sincerely,
Tim Woods

Managing Editor
Time Design Magazine Co.

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LETTERS

TS2068 DISK DRIVE SYSTEMS

Dear Tim,

I have several questions/comments which may be of interest to other readers of TIME MAGAZINE. I don't think I've seen any comprehensive article on the various disk systems that are available for the Times Sinclair 2068. I have seen included advertisers's references and offerings of disk, but I don't really know which way to jump to get the best deal of these for my purposes.

I have the Russell Speech Synthesizer for the Z801. I've seen no reference on adaptation of this to the TS2068. I also have the THREE STATES FORM 80M for the Z801; I've seen no adaptation or anything similar for the TS2068.

I am still enjoying your magazine, as the best and now almost only source of Sinclair/Times info and news.

Sincerely,
Louis G. Cooley
Ocala, FL

Editor: Good questions. I'll tackle them in reverse order. First, the best source of FORTH language information for Sinclair computers in the U.S., is to contact Gary Gauger of the Dayton (Ohio) Microcomputer Association. He is the founder of the FORTH Interest Group (FIG), a sub-group of DMA. Gary is very familiar with versions of the language for the Z801/2068 and Spectrum, and is willing to help. You can contact him by mailing to: 877 Hoback St., New Canale, Ohio, 45344. As for your second question, I'm sure it is possible, but haven't seen or heard of anyone adapting it to the TS2068. Have you tried contacting Russell Electronics? Perhaps one of our readers have some information. Finally, the topic of disk drives. Indeed we are guilty of not providing any major follow up to articles we have published in the past of available disk drive systems for the TS2068. I hope to correct that very soon. In the meantime, here's a quick overview on what's out there. A total of five different systems have been released for the standard (non-Spectrum) 2068. Two of the systems are no longer [Spectrum] 2068. Two of the systems are no longer available (Rexel Millennium X and Zebax's F20-5000), which leaves the 2068 user with three to choose from. They are the Accos FS-68 (IBM 1801's, Austin, Texas 78760), the Linktek Disk Interface (REX, Mount, Ont., Canada, K4B-1M9), and the Oligex Disk Drive Interface (1740) Whaley Dr., Cumberland, IN 45729). It should be understood that the three models come as an interface circuit card and you must provide the drives/ main/power supply for the drives (these disks offer an optional disk drive package along with their circuit board). From best bet on drives would be to pick up a copy of COMPUTER SHOPPER, or consult your local TS dealer. (I know of one, RMO Enterprises, that stocks drives). It would be wise to write for information and prices in the drive systems, as well as complete features, etc. Some of them offer "extras", such as an RGB monitor interface, or Spectrum compatibility, and IBM "magic button" SAVEs. If you have Spectrum emulated your 1068 and wouldn't mind a genuine Spectrum disk drive system, you might want to check out the non-STDPLE Interface (Brooklog Products, 41 Church Road, London, England, NW1 4DP) which sells for \$59.95 in the U.K. Along with a disk interface, the interface also has a built-in Centronics printer interface, joystick ports, networking capabilities, and more. Quite an impressive unit that looks a lot like the Sinclair Interface One. I think we will be seeing more of this one in the months to come. Other Spectrum disk drive interfaces are available, such as the DMZ drive system. You were right by stating you want a disk drive system that would fit your particular needs. That's the key to selection...and be sure to stop around, and if possible ask questions of other users who have such systems.

QL NEWS FROM THE U.K.

Dear Mr. Woods,

From this side of the pond a number of QL facts have come to light:

1. Digital Precision is about to launch it's own desktop publishing package. 2. All those who paid in advance for a "FUTURA" machine have had their money re-funded because, though advertised months ago, it appears not to have reached the circuit board stage.
3. The "TRIX 20" complete with 66020 and an optional 68881 fp co-processor is at the circuit board stage and expected to be seen in mid-May (time will tell). Projected prices are £425 (without 68881) and \$600 (with) for a 12.7 MHz version, 16.7 MHz versions will be twice this. 4. QUAS utilities, the front end for the FUTURA (as was/is/was/?) appears to have been written not to work with programs compiled using the DP Supercharge and Turbo SuperSASIC compilers due to bad feelings between the companies. 5. A new adventure writing system with real-time simulation surfaced recently. 6. It is rumored that the QL's multi-tasking QDOS operating system is not actually owned by anybody, unlike SuperSASIC. Several companies are playing safe though, and are producing new compatible systems. Complete QDOS disassemblies are available from a number of companies including Tandy.

All the best with TOM.

Yours Sincerely,
Richard Howe
Proprietor
AKR DISTRIBUTION
Isle of Wight, United Kingdom

LOAD LOADER

BY
WILLIAM C. ANDREWS

To dress up the monitor screen while loading a program I use the following short program. LINE 4 is the title to be displayed for 20 CHRS. LINE 7 is the actual program name --- limit 10 CHRS (7 with A & 2 after the \$). LINE 10 for a routine code (if needed). LINE 11 is the loading title of this program. Edit LINE 11, delete the line number and RER and save into tape or refer before the main program.

```

1 BORDER 1: PAPER 1: CLS
2 LET LB=""
3 LET KB=""
4 LET NB="???"
5 PRINT AT 4, (31-(LEN NB+6))/
6 PAPER 2: INK 0: BRIGHT 1: "???"
KB: TO LEN NB+3: ""
6 PRINT AT 5, (31-(LEN NB+6))/
7 PAPER 2: INK 0: BRIGHT 1: " "
1: INK " " $ NB$ " " $ "
NK NB: "
7 PRINT AT 6, (31-(LEN NB+6))/
8 PAPER 2: INK 0: BRIGHT 1: "???"
LB: TO LEN NB+3: " "
8 PRINT AT 10, 11: PAPER 0: IN
K 9: FLASH 1: " LOADING " FLASH
9: PAPER 0: AT 15, 9: PLEASE WAIT
9
9 INK 1: LOAD "???"
10 LOAD "???"CODE
11 RER SAVE "???" LINE 1

```


For Your Sinclair

New Releases

Last issue we reported on an external keyboard interface that uses the cartridge port of the TS2068, available from John McMichael [1852 Appleford St., Gloucester, Ontario, Canada K1J 6Y4]. John has been busy designing new peripherals for the TS2068, and now has several other new items. The "Sound Booster" plugs into the rear port and amplifies both the BEEP and SOUND information sufficient to drive an 8 ohm, 8" speaker, or there is a low level output provided to drive another power amp or stereo amp. The on-board 9 volt battery helps to reserve the computer's internal power for other devices. A feed-thru bus is also included. The "Sound Booster" board is priced at \$41.50 U.S. funds (battery and speaker are not included). An RGB interface is now available for \$34.95 U.S. funds, and provides an output to drive any RGB-type color monitors. Press-on type Key Caps for external keyboards are available for \$5 a set. A "Cartridge Adapter" card has also been designed to plug any cartridge into the rear bus of the TS2068 whenever the cartridge dock is occupied. Write for further information.

A new machine code utility software package is available for the 2068/TS1000/TS1500 called KAPKIT 1000. A number of special routines are included that will save the ZX/TS programmer time and allow greater flexibility. Move whole programs or variables to high or low RAM and back, convert hex to decimal, delete more than one program line at a time, and much more. A cassette tape and complete documentation are available from: LST Software, Box 62, Alcester, SD 57001, for \$14.95 plus \$1.95 for S&H. The program is also available from E.Arthur Brown.

You may have noticed that Commodore's inexpensive 1520 Printer/Plotter has dropped in price. One of our long time readers (and occasional contributor), John McMichael, has devised an interface and companion software driver to operate the 1520 with a Times Sinclair 2068. The result is high-resolution four color graphic plotting with the Times, using simple LPRINT commands. For complete details and prices, send a legal SASE to: John McMichael, 1710 Palmer Dr., Lacrosse, WI 83070. We will even provide you with an address where you can buy the plotter for \$49.95.

PC-DRAW is a software package just released by a promising new company called MEM Enterprises. The impressive new program allows the user to design detailed printed circuit board artwork, which can then be printed and photographed, providing a negative for circuit board etching. Circuit drawing is made easy with joystick control, and the user-friendly documentation takes you through the procedure step by step. PC-DRAW supports all of the popular TS printer interfaces and is set up for Epson compatible printers. Similar programs for other computers are expensive. This one sells for \$19.95 plus \$3.00 (total order) S&H and is exclusively available from: Nighted Computers, 707 Highland St., Fulton, NY 13069, tel. (315) 593-8219.

CompServe Information Service has introduced a new graphics medium, that will eventually replace the RLE graphics (for information on this subject, reference Stan Lesko's articles on RLE in the Jan/Feb '87 issue of TDN). The new standard is called GIF (for Graphics Interchange Format). With the appropriate software, a picture file could be "downloaded" via a modem from CompServe, then displayed on the screen or sent to a printer. GIF allows for full color and high resolution on many types of personal computers. Larry Wood of the Picture Forum (GD PICS) on CompServe, recently told TOM

that information would be released to Sinclair programmers to see if a GIF decoder or encoder program is feasible with our computers.

Speaking of telecommunications, the second edition of "The Guide To T/S Telecommunications" by Pete Fischer and Steve Ishii is out...and is it ever a real gem! The new deluxe and expanded edition hardly resembles it's forerunner. The guide was re-printed using a laser printer and is much more readable. The front cover is actually an RLE graphic that was passed around to a number of TS users who added their own design, resulting in an interesting collage of pictures from around the U.S. Well worth the \$5 price. Get your copy from: Pete Fischer, P.O. Box 2002, Tampa, AZ 85281. Pete showed his second edition guide for the first time, at the Midwest TS Computer Fest in Indianapolis.



This RLE graphic was specially produced for the cover of the new deluxe edition of "The Guide To T/S Telecommunications". Several TS users from around the U.S. took part in drawing the graphics that make up the picture.

Having trouble figuring out the new tax laws that were recently passed by our U.S. Congress? A special 2068 program just might be your ticket. Herb Bowers, a former Federal Auditor and private tax preparer has put together a comprehensive tax software package that contains two separate programs. "THE NEW TAX LAW AND YOU" is priced at \$12.00 postage paid, and is available from the author: Herb Bowers, Sr., 2588 Woodshire Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23323, tel. (804) 487-5924. Be a tax "expert" and impress your friends with the astonishing accuracy that your TS2068 can calculate the new tax code.

Charles Stelding has a TS2068 desktop publishing software package, and now has released a version just for Olivetti's 2300 InkJet printer owners (The WUDJOP Company's "MidJet 1" printing utility is required). For a sample print-out and demonstration of what the program can do, send a legal SASE to obtain information and prices to: Charles Stelding, 1415 South Baxter, Tyler, TX 75701.

Have you wanted to really put ARCHIVE to work (the database program that comes "free" with a GL), without a lot of programming headaches? You may want to check out the ARCHIVIST and MAILMERGE software packages from Ark Distribution, Corvus Farmhouse, Chale Green, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, U.K., PO38 2LA. Write for information and pricing or contact your local QL dealer for a demonstration.

MIDWEST TS COMPUTER FEST

A Huge Success - AGAIN!

by Joe Williamson

May 2nd and 3rd was the peak time of the year for Tixex and Sinclair enthusiasts who once again converged for a weekend of fun and info gathering on our beloved computers. This year Indianapolis, Indiana was the site for the 2nd Midwest Tixex Sinclair Computer Fest. If you were not there, you missed the best one yet!

More than 45 dealers and user groups displayed their wares in over 6000 square feet of space. There were two separate seminar rooms with scheduled seminars running all day in both rooms. There was also a "swap shop" room where TS users exchanged and sold their unused equipment. A banquet was held on Friday night before the Fest to get all the dealers and user groups acquainted which was enjoyed by all.

More than 700 people were in attendance with family members either enjoying the show or the excellent hospitality of the Holiday Inn or even Indianapolis itself including the Speedway which was having size trials that weekend. All in all, this show was more than twice the size of last year's show. As last year, people from all over the US were there as well as from Canada, England, Mexico, and El Salvador.

The entire line of Tixex & Sinclair computers were represented as well as some clones such as the Thor (a QL clone) and the PC 8300 (a TS 1000 clone). Many dealers were also there including representatives from CTR magazine, Computer Shopper, computers, PC Pursuit, and The White Church Cabin who sold buttons commemorating the Computer Fest.

There was a shift of emphasis this year to the QL which seems to be doing much better than alot had expected last year. Sharp's, Eric Reed Pharmacy, Variety Sales, C. W. Associates, Curry Computer, Quantum Computing, Markel Electronics, RMO Enterprises, Time Designs, Sync Ware News and Quantum Levels all had excellent products available for the QL at the show. A Computer Response was also there showing their support for the QL.

The 2066 was not lacking in support either. Several new products were demonstrated and sold. RT Neosonics, Variety Sales, The Widjet Co., Facts Software, Byte Power, JRC Software, WNF Data Systems, Grey & Clifford, Curry Computers, RMO Enterprises, Novelaoft, Aerco, Zebra Systems, Knighted Computers, Sempar Software, EZ Key, E. Arthur Brown, The John Olinger Co., Leska Software Development, Larkin, Time Designs, and Syncware News all had products or catalogs available. Most of the seminars covered the 2066 and it seems that this year the trend is toward teleconferencing with the 2066 instead of just playing games. Also, desktop publishing on both the 2066 and QL seems to be popular this year.

The ZX81/TS1000/1500 had its own following with such companies as WNF Data Systems, Sirius Ware, Zebra Systems, Silicon Mountain Computers, The John Olinger Co., Sempar Software, EZ KEY Thomas B. Woods, Syncware News, and Time Designs represented at the show.

The User groups were also well represented and are becoming a key to the continued support of our computers. The Indiana STUG, Greater Cleveland SUG, Chicago Area TUG, Sinclair Milwaukee OG (SMDG), Capital Area TUG (CATS), North East Florida TUG, Sinclair Louisville OG (SLOG), Tampa and ST. Pete Area Members TUG (TASBAH), The San Diego UC, BAF UC, and the Quanta QL users group from England. User group representatives from all over the country were there to share and gather information.

There were many door prizes donated which made it possible to have about eight prizes given away each hour! Some of the door prizes given away were the QL software packages, service manuals, subscriptions, gift certificates, books, and newsletters. Everyone I spoke with said that they enjoyed the show and will return again next time. Next time is already on the drawing board and will be a reality. Alas in the works is a show to be held next March in the Orlando Florida area. The producers of the Midwest TS Computerfest will help the North East Florida TUG and the TASBAH group put on the March '88 show which has already received tremendous support from the dealers present at the last show.

This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to come down and bring their family for a nice vacation in Florida. The site for the show will be very close to Disney World, Sea World, Circus World, and other major attractions. Also, this is off season time and vacation packages will be available at reasonable rates.

For more information, contact Eric Johnson, 245 N. Harden Ave, Orange City, FL 32763. A BBS will be set up at his address to gain more information soon. Actual date of show will be announced soon. Start making plans now!

The show was very well organized and proper credit should be given to all those involved. The Show was put on by a non-profit enterprise comprised of various user groups and individuals in the Midwest. Frank Davis is the producer and TS Founder. He and the following people should be applauded for putting on an excellent show.

Paul Holmgren	Executive Chairman
Willie Jones	User grp. Coordinator/Registration Chairman
Ralph McCrea	Swap Meet Chairman/Door Prize Coordinator
Basil Wentworth	Sealair Chairman
Carol Davis	Computer Fest Consultant/Treasurer
Rhonda Jones	Special Assistance
Tia Woods	Program Booklet Coordinator

1987 Computer Fest Committee Members:

Jack Payne
Tom Bert
Nilda Bert
Bill Bell
Mike Felerak
Frank Gannon

Also, special thanks should be given to the Holiday Inn North of Indianapolis and many other who made the 1987 Midwest TS Computer Fest possible. I hope I covered everyone that was there!



Stewart Newfield of Zebra Systems

WHO was there? WHAT was there?

Another look at the 1987 Sinclair Extravaganza...

Reported by **Tim Woods**

Most "sophisticated" computer people who can even remember the Timex Sinclair, would like to think that it dried up and withered away. But remember the old saying "you can't keep a good man down"? Certainly holds true with the Timex Sinclair community. Participation of both dealers and users at the 1987 Midwest TS Computer Fest held on May 2nd and 3rd in Indianapolis, Indiana, reaffirmed and demonstrated that there still is tremendous interest in Sir Clive's computers.

Something must be said of this phenomena of getting behind an "orphan" computer and supporting it long after the manufacturer has severed ties and even forgotten it exists. (Evidence of this is seen elsewhere; some 10,000 die-hard TI994/A fans recently held a computer fair in Chicago. One enterprising individual is manufacturing TI clones. There is even a large support group for the Adams and another one for the IBM PCjr.) It is like a silent revolution, where the consumer takes action into his or her own hands. In a conversation with one long-time TS supporter at the Fest, he told me, "I have grown to be comfortable with my Timex system and it's kind of a challenge to find where I can still get progress and hardware for it. Sure there are faster, more powerful machines, but I am very happy with what I have. Why should I go out and plunk down some bucks for an IBM clone or an Atari ST, when I haven't even explored all of the potential of my own machine? And it's having a lot of fun too!"

Several new items were displayed or announced for the first time ever at the TS Computer Fest. Many of the exhibiting dealers had large booths with monitors set up to demonstrate their wares.

Mark Steuber from Sharp's Inc., of Mechanicsville, Virginia (who also happens to be the author of **NOR IN THE EAST**, a program that has sold quite well in the U.K. recently), had several new offerings for the QL, along with some news of other developments. Most important perhaps is that a new board called the **TRUMP CARD**, will be available by the time you read this, for \$299.95. And get this—along with a full-featured disk interface you also get additional RAM that will boost your QL's memory to 900K!! At the Sharp's table were some hardware upgrades from Miracle Systems and Sandy (including the **SUPERBOARD** and **SUPERHOUSE**). A new keyboard replacement for the QL called the **Schon Keyboard** was also shown. Reportedly it only takes about three minutes to install, and is priced at about \$90. It had the feel of a very good typewriter keyboard. Mark said that several of his customers are interested in the new CP/M operating system from UltraSoft, and that he has it on order. This should open a vast amount of public domain software for the QL.

On another note, it was announced that Sharp's Inc. had bought out Nighthed Computer's QL business. Nighthed Computers (of Fulton, New York) will no longer stock QL products, but instead will be concentrating on the other computer lines like the Amstrad, but will also continue to support the Timex Sinclair 2068. Ray Payne, co-owner of Nighthed mentioned that the QL business had been an "up and down" affair, yet the TS2068 has proven to be a very steady enterprise. They have a whole list of superb programs for the Timex that have been converted from the Sinclair Spectrum, including their latent, **TCMAHANK**, a helicopter flight/air battle simulation.

Continued Next Page...



Jon Ahtonen (programmer) and Mark Pendrick of Mark Enterprises have just released "Electric Desk".



The QLT TROR, a QL clone is shown by Curry Computer.



Joe Williamson at the Foote Software booth.

TM's Editor, Tim Woods chats with Nughil Asar, the programmer of "SEXTON 2069", a disk utility.



At the Sharp's Inc. booth: the Schon Keyboard and disk interface/ROM board from Miracle Systems.

MIDWEST TS COMPUTER FEST

Zebra Systems of Woodhaven, New York, again (as in Cincinnati last year) had the largest display of Tixex Sinclair merchandise. Everything from books, Mesotech interfaces, programs, and even a new Mico Trackball controller for the Sinclair QL. For months, rumors had been circulating in the Sinclair community that Zebra was "getting out" of the Tixex business. But the truth is, while they do have on-going development for other lines (like the Tandy and Atari), they have committed to continue support for the Tixex. They have a large inventory of related merchandise including a number of used ZX81s, ZX powered supplies, and un-tested 2050 modem cards.

Stewart Newfield, manager of Zebra Systems even reported that an all new catalog would be printed shortly. I think that most Fest attendees were impressed with Zebra's attitude and confirmation of support for TS users, which greatly differs from some of the rumors that were floating around recently.

It was a real joy to see that Carry Computer could make it to this year's Fest (all the way from Phoenix, Arizona). They brought with them a good sampling of their Sinclair product lines, which leans heavily towards the Sinclair QL. On display was both a Sinclair Spectrum 128 (pre-Austrad) and the CRT TRCR (the newest



TS Fest Committee members and helpful persons: (back row, L to R) Gary Sanger, Tom Surt, Elida Surt, Paul Holmstrom, Willie Jones, Russi Westworth, Bill Bell, and Frank Duncan. (front row, L to R) Frank Davis, Carol Davis, Jack Roberts, and Rhonda Jones. A map depicted areas where Fest attendees came from.



The Friday night banquet was attended by the exhibitors and Fest committee members. It was held in the hotel's spacious ballroom, complete with crystal chandeliers. This was the perfect "kick-off" to the successful 1987 Midwest TS Computer Fest.



The food at Friday night's banquet was superb! Salads, croissants, sandwiches, chicken, and world famous strawberry cheeseburgers were the featured fare...and the service wasn't bad either.



Editor Tim Woods and Assistant Manager Stephanie Woods of TIME DIGESTS, enjoy excellent dinner conversation with Ian Robertson (far left) from Toronto, Canada and several other TS notables.



Tom Best answers a customer's question. Tom is the editor of QUANTUM LEAPERS and is the U.S. librarian for QUANTUM, the London-based QL users group.



Representatives of CATS, the Washington, D.C. area TS users group, (L to R) Hank Dickson, Audrey and Bob Gornicki, and Ruth Pegley.

QL clone from the U.K.). They also had a video showing highlights from their recent trip to a Personal Computer Show in England. Bob Curry demonstrated how the Pison Organizer works. It's a hand-held pocket computer, that can download and upload QL data via a serial cable. This is one powerful little device to watch, as versions are available for IBM compatibles and is even reported to be adaptable to Lotus 1-2-3.



Chris Raynak runs the Greater Cleveland Sinclair Users Group booth. The group had an impressive display of graphics.



Mark Stueber of Sharp's Inc., explains how the latest QL hardware and software interfaces operate.

MIDWEST TS COMPUTER FEST

Mark Pendrick was back again this year representing Market Enterprises, and had teamed up with Peach II Productions (Jon Rothenetz) to produce a new QL program called ELECTRIQ DESK. It has an icon-driven menu and is similar to "sidekick" programs that contain several useful functions in one software package. ELECTRIQ DESK is priced at \$24.95.

Continued On Page 10



It's the Amstrad PC1512, an IBM clone, displayed here by a local Amstrad rep. Complete systems start at \$600.



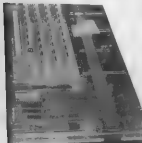
Arsal Fraulich, programmer for Novelsoft of Toronto, Canada, dons his "expert" cap to promote their new program EXPERT.



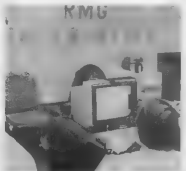
Staff of Quantum Computing on hand to answer questions: Martin Harel (General Manager) and Colin F. Cooke of London, England (Director of International Operations).



Selling Debby Curry, co-owner of Curry Computer, reported that Spectrum software were sold very well at the Fest.



Left: "One of a kind"—a transparent TR2068 with a Footprint Interface in the cartridge dock. Center: Dick Collins, a member of SWAG from Westcain, at the helm of his TR2068 system including a full-blown Acero PD-64 floppy set up. Right: At the SWG Enterprises booth, Rod Gowen demonstrated the new Larren TR2068 disk system.



MIDWEST TS COMPUTER FEST

There were many other exhibits geared to the QL including: A+ Computer Response, C.W. Associates (who had a striking all black dual quad-density disk drive system for \$239), Don Bonard of Sinclair Network (has a product guide on microdrive cartridge), Variety Sales (described networking and a QL-based BBS program), QUANTUM LEVELS magazine, and Quantum Computing.

Frank Toomey of Quantum Computing is a rather interesting fellow that has launched an ad campaign for the Sinclair QL in many elite PC engineering publications, to go neck-to-neck with PC's and other 32 bit processors. Frank also offers two software packages of "freeware" (Freeware I and Freeware II) at no charge, by just sending a blank microdrive cartridge for each, or sending \$2 for each package to cover the cost of a cartridge and postage. Each freeware contains utilities and other programs for the QL.

Two new QL books were on display: "Taking The Quantum Leap: The Last Word On The Sinclair QL" by Mike de Sosa was featured at the Time Designs Magazine booth, and "Archive Master" by Executive Workshop was available for viewing at 1992 Enterprises booth.

The most interesting 2068 display at the Fest was clearly (pun intended) a completely transparent, plastic moulded 752068, which was obtained from the Research and Development Department of the Timex Computer Corporation shortly after that division shut down. Inside this rare bird, one could easily see the all-socketed printed circuit board, with EPROMs replacing the usual factory ROMs. A user from Florida is the lucky owner of this collector's item. He also obtained Timex-designed sticks-on keyboards for the 751000. These would turn the normal membrane keyboard into small calculator type keys. These have the Timex logo on them, and would have been sold through Timex dealers.

Jerry and Till Cheszkif of AERCO from Austin, Texas, were back again this year supporting the Timex Sinclair 2068 with their FD-68 disk drive and FPM systems. New for this year, was the long-awaited Spectrum "boot" disk which allows the FD-68 user to run Spectrum software. On Saturday evening, an exclusive Aerco users meeting was held. Jerry Cheszkif announced that Aerco was dedicated to finishing the FD-68 DOS, and that completion of this goal was not too far off.

Novelsoft from Toronto, Canada, had an impressive display of three monitors that gave a continuous demo of their popular software packages for the TS2068 and the Spectrum, including TIMACHINE, ARIMOKK 1.1, The MORRI, and a new release called EXPERT. IT is an expert system and also (with the accompanying booklet) a study in artificial intelligence-type environments. On hand to answer questions were Novelsoft programmers David Ridge and Ariel Fraulich.

Ed Grey of Grey & Clifford Computer Products was at his terminal demonstrating a Z-SI/O RS232 serial port card and the SPECTERM-64 software package, which will allow the TS2068 user to operate any 1200 baud modem. Grey & Clifford is also a dealer for PC Pursuit, and applications were available for signing up. A special separate drawing was held at the booth, and these lucky individuals won G & C merchandise: Don Waltersen (MI) and John Kenney (MA) both won Z-SI/O cards, and John Coffey (IN) and Oscar Sennsbough (TX) were winners of SPECTERM-64 software.



Ed and Reddy Grey of
G & C Computer Products

Joe Williamson of Poets Software from Gainesville, Florida has one of the best printer interface values around for the TS2068. The PoetPrint is a quality board that fits in the cartridge dock, and is compatible with print driver software for the Aerco/Oliger and both Tassan B and C. The \$45 price includes the card, ribbon cable, and software on cassette. There is even a spare socket and switch, to run either a Spectrum ROM, or any EPROM based software (like Zebra's GS-64).

Other Timex Sinclair 2068 displays included: Rod Goven of 1992 Enterprises (demonstrating the new Larkin Disk System and many original software packages that 1992 exclusively markets), Vern Tidwell of RT Pneumatics (the co-author of SPRINTS 2068 described some new programs and displayed special ARCS versions of each), the MDRUP Co. (offered a new catalog featuring a number of software packages), Stan Lenka of Lenka Software Development and regular contributor to TIM (demonstrated his new desktop publishing package for the TS2068 called PIXEL PRINT), Pete Fischer (had a new and expanded version of his GUIDE TO TS TELECOMMUNICATIONS), John Coffey of JRC Software (showed DIAMOND MIKE and other programs), and both Jeff Moore (editor) and Tom Woods (publisher) were on hand from SYNGRAPH NEWS.

Speaking of Tom Woods, he has been shifting his talents a bit lately and has been involved in developing a new program for use on PC compatible machines called FINDEX. It is a database inspired by his Pro/FILE series but makes use of disk drives, 80 col. video, and greater memory capacity. One interesting feature of FINDEX is that it can transfer data files from other computers (such as the Timex) into its database through an RS232 serial interface. The program will be marketed by the E. Arthur Brown Co. as "shareware".

While not as plentiful, there were some displays of interest to DOS/751000/751500 users, which included: Mike Anling of Sempor Software (featuring the Partial Pascal software package), Dave Woods of SiriusWare (and author of a popular machine code book for the X801), Ted Sobel of The White Church Cabin (brought along an interesting industrial applications display based on a TS1500, some custom software and extensive control hardware). Many dealers had software packages for the TS/2X based machines, and SYNGRAPH NEWS and TIME DESIGNS had magazines and other publications available.

There were many other individuals and groups who participated and worthy of noting: John Oliger of the John Oliger Company, Dave Rothman (SYNXP for CompuServe), Mike Davis and Diane Malburg of HEM, Kurt Casby (programmer of LOOPER V and CASKAND 2068), Dick Kelly of Kelly's Office Products (an Amstrad dealer), Dick Thatcher of Howard M. Saxe Publishing, Gary Solomon of Brice Road Pharmacy, John Kenney of the Boston Computer Society, Gary Ganger (President of DMA), Dave Francon (programmer of Extended Paint and editor of T.O.P.S.), Pat Spera (SYNXP for CompuServe), Jack Roberts (1986 TS Computer Fest Chairman), and the many members and representatives of the more than 12 TS Users Groups present at the Fest. I am sure that some person or group was accidentally omitted from this list...for this I sincerely apologize. Perhaps another article could be written on things that were left out of this one.

Based on the success of the Second Annual Midwest TS Computer Fest, there will be another one next year. Several ideas were suggested, such as three separate shows (one in the West, one Midwest, and one on the Eastcoast). Even more localized computer shows on a smaller basis have been discussed for Florida and possibly the Northwest. I know that I will attend at least one if not all of the proposed TS Computer Fests. If you hesitated about Cincinnati, and procrastinated this year about Indianapolis, perhaps next year will be your chance. See you there!

Note: Photography at the 1987 Midwest TS Computer Fest by Joe Williamson and Tim Woods. Please read Joe's accompanying article on the Fest.

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A word processor is to a computer user what a typewriter is to a typist, except that the former has more advantages than the latter. ZX-Test can operate in 16-64K RAM providing from 1300 to 2500 words per document. It features 6 different options: write, read, edit, print, save and clear text. Text is written on a per-line basis with quick speed and with horizontal back-space and delete capabilities being available. You can also access the editor directly from write mode and vice-versa. Text can be proof-read on a per-line basis allowing for enough time to determine if any editing is needed. The text editor stores a line of text to be deleted, inserted, replaced and listed for editing. You may also change a word or expression within a line, stop or start text while it is scrolling up the screen, begin reading text from the first line of the file, re-enter write mode from the editor, return to the main menu, or create a window so that you can read/edit two files simultaneously. The print option takes text displayed in 30-column format on the screen and outputs to either the ZX/T/S printer (with Memotech's Centronics Parallel Interface 80-column and lower/higher - case output is possible). Files may be saved on tape cassettes with the use of one single command, or by the same token they can be erased from memory / storage so that the full capacity of the program can be used for other purposes such as composing letters, reports, articles, memos, standard forms, instructions, and graphs (telephone directory lists of customers, members, friends, etc.). Also copies of files are always fast, expensive and easier to run than using a photocopier. Other advantages are savings in time, paper, ink, correcting mistakes and adding alterations more efficiently than doing them through either hand-writing or using a typewriter.

\$16.95



An electronic spreadsheet calculator is the fundamental basic tool for summing, reporting and analyzing in matrix form any accounting, mathematical, or scientific manipulation of numbers. ZX-Calc operates in 32-64K RAM and offers a maximum of 3360 characters / spreadsheet. The entire matrix consists of 15 columns (letters A-O) and 30 rows, numbers 1-30) with 6 characters/cell. Unlike other popular EISCs, ZX-Calc uses in calculations and when cells all 4 math functions on the ZX-81/T/S1000. It offers a unique "SUM" function that totals one or more rows/columns simultaneously. Parentheses can be used within equations. There is no fixed limit on how many equations may be entered. Formulas may be stored in all 420 cells of the spreadsheet. The display affords 15 rows/columns. Loading of data into more than one cell can occur across/down one or more row/column simultaneously. With vertical windowing you can arrange a set of columns in any order to practice using hard window-alignment display formats. The menu offers 6 options: enter, erase, move, calculate, print, save and clear the spreadsheet. Enter/erase allows the entering, deletion or date alignment within a cell through the use of a mobile cursor. With the move option you may move through the entire spreadsheet to access any row, column or cell. The calculate option allows you to enter labels, values or formulas into a cell or write and enter equations that will calculate the data already within the spreadsheet. You can also enter formulas into a cell into the option. Absolute relative special, down/addresses account now, and is followed by the option. Auto this option does the automatic calculation of the entire spreadsheet with one single command. Print allows you to output either the ZX/T/S printer or enter spreadsheet by column sets and row pages through use of the COPY command. The entire spreadsheet may be saved on cassette tape or you may clear all data from it or erase the program from RAM entirely. The most salient advantage provided by an EISC over specifically written, application software is that an EISC provides a reasonable framework with which you can compile any specific financial model rather than just being limited to only one statically fixed format for storing, displaying and manipulating numerical data.

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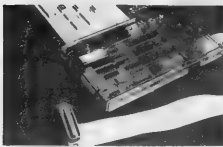


Time management is an important aspect of any serious business and personal agenda. Planning how to spend our time leaves us better prepared before and while we are spending it and we remain better organized after we finish spending it. ZX-Calendar operates in 16-64K RAM allowing 25 appointments in 16K, 100 in 32K or 180 in 48K and 64K. Each appointment record holds a maximum of 220 characters. The main menu includes enter, search/check/print, change, save, clear and print any and all appointments made on a specific date or with any party. Output to either the ZX/T/S printer is permissible. The program will permit you to remember to do something or to be somewhere important by cataloging your activities to ask questions that you must account for in order not to waste time when it is scarce, when, with whom, at what time, for how long, where and what are you going to discuss and conclude when you get together with someone else? The program lets you permanently originate record clearly, search, sort, calculate, modify, summarize, obtain a written report and store your answers to the preceding questions so that you will not forget what you decide to do with your time. This program identifies your time according to when you are going to spend it and with whom you are going to share it. Through these forms of labeling appointments you are able to verify or modify how your time is budgeted without wasting ink, paper or more time trying to remember what you said to yourself or what someone else said to you or where you placed certain written messages that you now can't find. With the program you will know where you can find exactly what you need to know about where you want to and have to be or where you have been before you get and after you get there. Thus, ZX-Calendar will let you plan your time so that you will never have to worry about what is ahead or what came before; for you, we always know by using it, to never be caught off guard by any time-frame.

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FootePrint interface w/software & cable \$45⁰⁰

FootePrint with OS-64 option included ..\$65⁰⁰

Bare board & instructions only\$20⁰⁰

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CK Type

A NEW "STANDARD" FOR "FOOL-PROOF" TYPING
OF TS2068 PROGRAM LISTINGS IN MAGAZINES
BY STAN LEMKE

One of the really great things about attending the 1987 TS Computer Fest was meeting and talking to all the great Times/Sinclair enthusiasts! What's more, all the people that type-in and use programs presented here in TM. Several people commented on the difficulty of typing in these programs, and then debugging them. The longer the program, the more difficult the task. As an aid in this endeavor, I've created CK TYPE.

CK TYPE will give a short analysis of every line in your BASIC program. It provides the following information: LINE NUMBER, number of BYTES used to create the line, and a CHECKSUM of these bytes. If a program is submitted and the CK TYPE output is provided for the listing, you will be able to type in your copy, run CK TYPE on it, and very quickly know which line(s) might need corrections. (Note: OUTPUT is routed to the screen and to the TS2040 printer with LPRINT, simultaneously.)

The LINE NUMBER lets you check line-by-line the accuracy of your listing. A line is the BASIC program line following a number (1 to 9999), and may be 1 word, or a full screen in length.

Number of BYTES used is dependent on the number of characters you type (including blanks and embedded attributes) and helps you find those missing "spaces".

CHECKSUM helps you find typing errors such as misspelled variables, errors in data statements, and even transposed characters. It is not "fool-proof", as compound errors could offset each other, but it sure helps. (Note: CHECKSUM for upper and lower case letters is different, so be sure to use the same case as the listing you are typing!)

Listing "A" gives you the CK TYPE Basic program. Simply type it in as is. If you do not have TIMACHINE (the compiler from NOV/ISSFT), then you can delete/mkip lines 9967 to 9990 as these are TIMACHINE directives. When you are sure the program is typed correctly, save it to tape with: SAVE "CK TYPE" [ENTER].

Listing "B" is a POKE table to create a machine code version of CK TYPE (if you do not have TIMACHINE). The first column defines the memory location of the number in column 2, column 1 + 1 is the memory location of column 3, column 1 + 2 is the memory location of column 4, etc. You can create your machine code version by poking the appropriate memory locations with the corresponding values: POKE 64888,205 [ENTER]. POKE 64889,58 [ENTER]. POKE 64890,255 [ENTER]....SAVE this to tape with: SAVE "CK TYPE" CODE 64888,460 [ENTER]. To use, LOAD the BASIC program you wish to check, LOAD "CK TYPE" CODE 64999,460 and run with RANDOMIZE USR 64888 [ENTER].

I hope that CK TYPE is widely used in the TS2068 community as a way of easing the pain associated with typing in program listings! (Editor's Note: Please pass the word around about CK-TYPE, especially those of you connected with TS user groups and newsletters. Stan has come up with a standard that is common in many other PC magazines. Additional copies of this magazine can be purchased by those interested in CK TYPE for just \$3 postage paid each.)

The program is then ready to RUN. Type RUN [ENTER]. The output it creates will match listing "B" if you have no errors. The first column from listing "B" is the LINE NUMBER, column 2 is the number of BYTES used to create the line, column 3 is the line CHECKSUM value. Non-TIMACHINE versions would start with the line number 9991. To use this version with other BASIC programs, make sure that your other programs does not use lines 9991 to 9999. Then MERGE CK TYPE with your other BASIC program, and RUN [ENTER].

If you use the TIMACHINE compiler to compile this program, it will produce listing "C" and a machine code routine that will be located at 64888 and be 460 bytes long. SAVE this to tape with SAVE "CK TYPE" CODE 64888, 460 [ENTER]. To use this, LOAD in your BASIC program, LOAD in the machine code program with LOAD "CK TYPE" CODE 64888,460 [ENTER], and run with RANDOMIZE USR 64888 [ENTER].

Listing A

```

0987 REM % LIST
0988 REM % LPRINT
0989 REM % INT % START STOP.BYT %I
NE.LENGTH,SUM,ODD,%I
0990 REM % OPEN B
0991 LET start=255+PEEK 20636-#F
EK 20635 LET stop=255+PEEK 2352
0+PEEK 20627 LET byte=1:
0992 LET line=0 LET length=0
FI sum=0
0993 LET line=55+PEEK byte+PEEK
(byte+1) LET byte=byte+1
0994 LET length=55+PEEK (byte+1)
+PEEK byte LET byte=byte+2
0995 LET odd=1 FOR i=1 TO length
h LET sum=sum+(odd+1)+PEEK byte
LET odd=#NOT odd LET byte=byte+1
NEXT i
0996 PRINT "line",line,"TAB 6;" "length
h,TAB 13;" sum
0997 LPRINT "line,TAB 6;" "length
h,TAB 13;" sum
0998 IF byte>stop THEN GO TO 9992
0999 STOP
    
```

Listing B

```

0287 4 994
0288 4 982
0289 41 4720
0290 4 230
0291 66 8065
0292 43 4180
0293 53 7151
0294 56 5567
0295 59 10334
0296 40 4302
0297 45 2460
0298 24 2243
0299 2 455
    
```

Listing C

```

LINE 9990 +3
LINE 9990 64888 #PF70

RT0 65249 #PEE1
RT1 65257 #PEE2
RT67 65263 #PEE3
RT91 65278 #PEE8
RT184 65283 #PF03
RT111 65323 #PF20
RT123 65331 #PF30
RT123 65338 #PF30
RT123 65343 #PF30
1887..... POSINT 65340 #PF40
1888..... POSINT 65350 #PF40
b1..... POSINT 65350 #PF43
line..... POSINT 65354 #PF44
length..... POSINT 65356 #PF4C
sum..... POSINT 65358 #PF4E
odd..... POSINT 65358 #PF50
i..... POSINT 65362 #PF52
    
```

TIM MACHINE ©1986 Cameron Mayne
M/C 168 BYTES
+ 28 BYTES FOR M/C VARIABLES
(BASIC USR 557 BYTES)
SAVE 'm/c' CODE 64888 460
LOAD 'm/c' CODE 64900

Sketchit - G

by Warren Fricks

SKETCHIT-G is an artist type of program that exploits the many capabilities of the T2068 computer to produce graphics of all sorts on the visual screen. These displays can be copied by the T2040 printer and/or saved on tape for future recall and merging. The Timex computer has several resident functions that can be utilized for this purpose and SKETCHIT-G is designed to coordinate all of these capabilities into a single, unified program.

The principal routine of the program is one of drawing straight lines by plotting pixels in any of the EIGHT cardinal directions, simply by touching one of a selected cluster of eight letter keys. Most artist type of programs only go this far. Although useful in an over-all drawing program, this feature is limited in what it can do. We need more.

Straight lines in directions other than the cardinal ones can be produced by using mathematical considerations, and SKETCHIT-G does this to produce lines

in two other ways: a) by using the pixel coordinates of the line terminals or, b) by using the coordinates of one terminal and its angular direction and pixel length. All three of these methods may be necessary in un-hammered, graphical construction.

The T2068 has a built-in facility for drawing circles and arcs of circles, but except for full and half-circles, the facility is impractical and difficult to control. SKETCHIT-G uses only that part which it does well, and relies upon mathematical concepts to draw arcs. But don't be scared off. The mathematics will be done by the computer. And, it has INPUT prompts that clearly tell you what data it needs from you and in what order.

SKETCHIT-G is a user-friendly program. It includes an error trapping device that conveniently refuses to allow the program to get hung up if you should make, or try an "Illegal" entry. But this can back-fire if you want to get back to the listing as BREAK does not work in the ON ISR mode. BREAK is treated like another error, and the program continues. Hence, the zero key has been set aside for an escape device. Remember this!

Continued Next Page...

Sketchit - G

```

1 REM ** "A-442", 6-8-80
2 REM ** SKETCHIT-G by
   Warren Fricks

3 BORDER 4 PAPER 6 CLS
6 LET X=125 LET Y=80 LET **
0 DIM #1032
10 DIM #1032: DIM #1032
20 INPUT "THIS ENTER TO CONTINU
   = "28
25 ON ERR GO TO 85
28 ON #1032 PEAK 25000
30 IF #1032 THEN ON ERR RESET
GO TO 1000
35 IF #1032 THEN LET I=NOT I
40 IF #1032 THEN GO TO 10
45 LET X=X+(#1032=69 OR #1032=67 OR
#1032=65) AND X-(#1032=61 OR #1032=63 OR
#1032=62) AND X*(#1032=60 OR #1032=64)
50 LET Y=Y+(#1032=67 OR #1032=65 OR
#1032=61) AND Y-(#1032=63 OR #1032=62)
55 PRINT AT 0,0 "X = " PEAK 23
677 "Y = " PEAK 23678
60 IF #1032 THEN GO TO 80
65 PLOT INVERSE 1,X,Y PAUSE 3
PLOT Y,Y
70 IF #1032 AND #1032=70 THEN GO
TO 1000(#1032=47)
75 PAUSE 10 GO TO 25
80 PLOT X,X PAUSE 3 PLOT INV.
ERASE 1,X,Y PAUSE 12 GO TO 25
85 ON #1032 RESET BEEP 25
90 PRINT #1: FLASH #1: ILLEGAL
MODE
100 PAUSE 100 GO TO 20

200 REM ** NEW PLOT COORDINATES
210 INPUT "NEW X-Value, 0 to 25
="
215 IF X<0 OR X>255 THEN GO TO
210
220 INPUT "NEW Y-Value, 0 to 167
="
225 IF Y<0 OR Y>167 THEN GO TO
220
230 GO TO 25

300 REM ** FULL CIRCLES
305 PRINT AT 0,0,85
310 INPUT "X Center point = "X
320 INPUT "Y Center point = "Y
330 INPUT "Radius = "r
340 INPUT "0 to DRAW, 1 to ERAS
E = "B
350 CIRCLE INVERSE B,X1,Y1,r
360 GO TO 25

```



```

400 REM ** LINES & SEMI-CIRCLES
405 PRINT AT 0,0,85
410 INPUT "Starting X-coordinate
   = "X1
420 INPUT "Starting Y-coordinate
   = "Y1
430 PLOT INVERSE 3,X1,Y1
440 INPUT "X Coordinate differ
   nce = "X2
450 INPUT "Y Coordinate differ
   ence = "Y2
460 INPUT "0 for a line 1 for
   an arc, circle = 1
470 INPUT "0 to DRAW, 1 to ERAS
E = "B
480 DRAW INVERSE B,X2,Y2 TO X1
490 GO TO 25
500 REM ** STRINGS INPUT
510 INPUT "ROW number = "r
515 IF r<1 OR r>20 THEN GO TO 5
10
520 INPUT COLUMN number = "c
530 INPUT "STRING = "AS
540 PRINT AT r,c AS
550 GO TO 25

580 REM ** VECTOR INPUT
585 PRINT AT 0,0,85
590 INPUT "Origin X-coordinate
   = "X1
600 INPUT "Origin Y-coordinate
   = "Y1
610 INPUT "Vector length = "L
640 INPUT "Angle, 0 to 360 deg.
   = "A
650 INPUT 0 to DRAW, 1 to ERAS
E = "B
660 FOR r=0 TO L
670 PLOT INVERSE B,X1+4COS(A#r
PI/180),Y1+4SIN(A#rPI/180)
680 NEXT r GO TO 25

780 REM ** ARCS OF CIRCLES
785 PRINT AT 0,0,85
790 INPUT "X Center point = "X
795 INPUT "Y Center point = "Y
800 INPUT "Radius = "r

```

```

740 INPUT "Initial angle (deg)
" : a1
750 INPUT "Terminal angle (deg)
" : a2
760 INPUT "R to DRAW; 1 to ERASE
" : b
770 FOR Real=PI/180 TO 42*PI/18
0 STEP .5
780 PLOT INVERSE b,x1+r*cos A,y
1+r*sin a
790 NEXT A GO TO 25

800 REM ** TITLES-COPY DISPLAY
810 ON ERR RESET
811 PRINT AT 8,5, "FLASH 1." ENT
82 R TITLE HEAD "G"
830 INPUT "R1 TITLE. 32 Charact
" : s, max, "18
831 PRINT AT 0,0,18
830 INPUT "R2 TITLE. 32 Charact
" : s, max, "18
840 PRINT AT 0,0,18
850 INPUT "G" RECORDER ready &
hit ENTER "18 COPY
870 INPUT "IMP. Y for 2nd COPY,
else " " " " "
880 IF Z$="" THEN COPY
890 PRINT AT 0,0,18 PRINT AT 2
1,0,18
890 GO TO 22

900 REM ** SAVE DISPLAY
910 ON ERR RESET
920 INPUT "G" RECORDER ready,
hit ENTER "18
930 SAVE "SKETCHIT" SCREENS
940 GO TO 22

1000 REM ** EXIT ON ERR MODE
and / of
START OVER
1005 INPUT "INPUT C-COUNT, N=RES
TRAT " : s
1010 IF Z$="c" THEN GO TO 22
1020 IF Z$="n" THEN CLS RUN
1030 IF Z$="c" OR Z$="n"
THEN GO TO 1005

```



FIGURE - 1

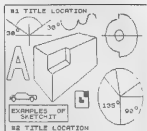


FIGURE - 2

- 5 - Lines where start, length, and direction are known. These are called vectors.
- 6 - Arcs of circles.
- 7 - TITLES & COPY the display. Have a printer ready.
- 8 - SAVE the display on tape, for future work. Have recorder ready and running.
- 9 - Exchange DRAW and ERASE modes.
- 0 - EXIT the ON ERR mode. Gives a choice to continue or CLS and start over.

How to use SKETCHIT-G might best be explained by describing what the dedicated keys do. First, there are EIGHT direction keys. These are shown in Figure 1. The arrows show the direction of travel each particular key controls. The middle, or "S" key, has been selected to turn off pixel "flashing". Flashing has a long ON cycle when in the draw mode and a long OFF cycle when in the erase mode. Pixels are small. One must look close to discern this difference. Also, erase, the pixel must retrace exactly the path that it took to draw. And especially in the case with curved lines. This means that it must retrace the line in the same direction. This is because the finite size of the pixel allows only an approximation of the true line, and the same line might be drawn with other pixels in reverse.

The area set aside on the screen for these graphics is all of that covered by screen lines number 1 to 20 inclusive. Line 0 and Line 21 have been set aside for titles, remarks, etc. You may draw in these lines, but avoid doing so. It is suggested that a screen grid showing pixel coordinates plus line and column numbers be used and that the desired design be initially sketched out in pencil with terminals and angles of lines be identified by coordinates and/or degrees. This information can then be transferred to the computer line by line in almost any order. Of course one is helped a bit by having some drafting skill to do graphics, but all skill in this application is a low level requirement.

The following is a tabulation of what action each of the number keys produces:

- 1 - Relocates the pixel PLOT coordinates.
- 2 - Pull circles by the CIRCLE command.
- 3 - Lines and half-circles by the DRAW command.
- 4 - STRINGS. Can accept any character or group of characters, spaces, keyboard symbols, pre-fabricated UDG's, etc.

Figure 2 shows a variety of shapes and designs produced by the action of SKETCHIT-G. Let us run thru one of the preceding actions...say the arc drawing feature initiated by the "G" key. In particular, refer to the arc shown in the upper left corner. To draw an arc, we must know its radius and the center point of that radius. We must also know what sector it covers and in this program the sector is defined by the starting radius and the ending radius. In turn, these are measured counter-clockwise in degrees from an arbitrary horizontal line, the initial line. In this example, the starting radius is 30 degrees from the initial line and the terminal radius is 150 degrees from the initial line. Of course none of the straight lines that are in this arc sample are needed to draw the arc. They are included here merely to help visualize the arc drawing parameters, and how the arc relates to them. Notice too, that the arc draws itself in a counter-clockwise direction. All of the curves in this program, circle and half-circle included, develop in this same way. All angles are measured from the same horizontal, initial line, counter-clockwise from 0 to 360 degrees. This concept is more or less customary in mathematics and related subjects.

You will note that the "3" key is for both straight lines and half-circles. The straight line is defined by its starting coordinates and "pitch". Pitch here means how far up or down and how far left or right the second terminal is from the first, measured in pixels. If you are using the "3" key for drawing half-circles, then the line is not drawn. Instead a half-circle is drawn for which the line would be its diameter. And the half-circle plots from the initial coordinates, counter-clockwise to the second terminal of such imaginary lines.

One other thing. Since the program is in BASIC and a lot of calculation is performed, you may notice that key response and INPUT prompting is slow at times. A good rule to follow: look at your INPUT data on the bottom line of the screen before pressing ENTER.

The various sub-routines in the program listing are identified by RUN lines to help you to analyze it and to see what makes it work. Have fun.

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Dear MSCRIPTERS:

by Jack Dohaney

When I first started customizing MSCRIPPT a couple of eons ago, I sort of promised a semi-regular newsletter to keep users abreast of latest developments. After two issues it died. Why? Because suddenly there were more Macript owners than I could cope with. I simply don't have the resources (time & money) to do mailings to so many people.

Now it appears that TIME DESIGNS may serve as an excellent vehicle for such a newsletter. It may appear apocryphally, since I tend to say something only when I have something to say.

BUG REPORT (Hey, I'm only human)

Bug #1: If your MESA won't Add Text from wafer, then BASIC Line 375 needs fixing. Should be:
375 NEXT I: PRINT " : INVERSE ALCB; INVERSE IC" " :
IF C#=" : GOTO A: OR NOT U THEN RETURN

Bug #2: If you have an AERCO Interface and your printer seizes up when printing text, then you probably need Version 5.1. See **VERSION REPORT** below. Stock Macscript's AERCO output routine had sneaky flaws which hid from me up to and including version 5.0. These flaws cause the strobe generated by the AERCO Interface to sometimes be too long for many printers, with weird results. The strobe is the signal from the interface to the printer that says: I got good data for you NOW. The strobe should last no longer than the data, but long enough for the printer to notice it: a few microseconds. With the AERCO Interface, strobe duration is controlled by software rather than hardware, and interrupts must be OFF when the strobe is initiated. If an interrupt occurs after the strobe is started, the strobe will be too long for some printers.

Another output routine flaw can let printers lacking a "print-error" signal generate a "false error signal" which aborts printing prematurely.

The problem described by Mel Rout in the "73 Communique" column on page 5 of the March/April 87 issue of TDM, indicates he needs Version 5.1 or higher. Joe Williamson's reply can probably be disregarded, with thanks for the effort.

Thanks to Jerry Chaskis of AERCO and P.E. Skipper of the world at large, for helping to defogate this one. Actually it's two separate bugs, but I call it one. All 3 of my printers, of course, work perfectly with Version 5.0. Alas, all printers are not created equal, but all should work perfectly with V5.1 and higher.

VERSION REPORT

Version 6 is in the works. I decline to speculate as to when it will be ready, or to describe new features in advance. Now's the time to send me your suggestions. Customized Macript users who have "registered" with me and paid their dues will be notified when V6 is available.

Versions between 5 and 6 (such as 5.2) are "intermediate" versions, steps along the way toward V6. BASIC Line 1 tells full version number. The latest version can always be obtained by request. Payment is in the form of voluntary donation, as usual.

VERSION 5.1 corrects sneaky machine-code flaws in the AERCO print routines of versions 5 and below. The pokes necessary to upgrade from V5 to V5.1 are too extensive for publication here.

VERSION 5.2 changes BASIC so that a backup may include current text. This has several uses: your backup may include your letterhead and/or usual printcode definitions, or you can reload work-in-progress all at

once, rather than reloading first the program and then the textfile. Version 5.2 simplifies the View Memory facility, to make room in BASIC for Backup's include-text function.

There are at present four "standard varieties" of Customized Mscript: MS52 for cassette tape only, MS8A for A67 and cassettes, MS5D for A800 disc and cassettes, and MS52 for Z800A disc and cassette. SPECIAL VARIETIES of Customized Mscript are available for use with Tandon and Byte-Deck serial interfaces and for RAMEX disc, but not yet for Olliger or Larken disc. I would need those devices on loan in order to develop such varieties.

DUES REPORT

Many Customized Mscript owners have not "paid their dues", probably because they're ignorant of the big picture. The facts are these: I do NOT hold the Mscript copyright and cannot legally sell Customized Mscript, or control its distribution. Dealers who distribute Customized Mscript rather than Stock Mscript do not pay me a cent. The only compensation I get for the excessive work of customizing Mscript comes directly from happy and fair-minded users in the form of voluntary donations. To date I have been compensated for my work at the rate of roughly \$2 per hour. My thanks to all Customized Mscript users who have registered, and paid their dues or expressed their appreciation.

THE FUTURE

I believe that the wheel needs to be re-invented continuously. We're it not, we'd still be riding around on round rocks instead of steel belted radials. I plan to go right on improving Mscript and other things as long as possible.

Jack Deharty, 390 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061 (415) 357-7882. Send large sized SASE for list of available "Fairware" programs.

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ZEUS UTILITY

by Richard Hurd

5 IBM

ZEUS SOURCE CODE TO
MSCRIPT CHSV5
or TASMWD II
CONVERSION

(C)1987 Richard Hurd

10 IBM This program uses and is based on the mnemonics lookup table from the ZEUS assembler

20 PRINT "TAB 15,";"ZEM/T""
Conversion routine to convert Zeus formatted Source Code to either of both:";" Mscript (CHSV5)"" or TASMWD II"

30 BEEP .1: PRINT "TAB 16"
Please LOAD TAB 3, ZEUS (Format) Source Code"

40 LOAD "CODE 32788
50 LET length=USR 61431 POKE 48277,length,255

60 CLG PRINT "Press appropriate key" 1) MSCRIPT (CHSV5)"" 2) TASMWD II"" 3) NOY N 1 & 2

81 LET I=CODE INKEY\$ IF I=000
THEN GO TO 81
90 IF I=409 OR I=51 THEN GO TO 81

70 IF I=409 OR I=51 THEN CLG
PRINT "Saving ZEMfile CODE 46927,length:SAVE "ZEMfile CODE 48927,length IF I=409 THEN GO TO 100

80 LET length=USR 61556 POKE 61552,78: POKE 61565,103 POKE 61554,48: POKE 61555,117

90 PRINT "Saving ZTfile CODE 30800,length:SAVE "ZTfile CODE 30800,length

100 CLG : PRINT "TAB 4:That's It!" STOP

110 LOAD "CODE CLEAR 29999
200
170 CLEAR SAVE "Z_2_M/T" LINE
110: SAVE "Z_2_M/T"CODE 61015,
610

The following routine converts ZEUS source code files into an ASCII file for either of the two most popular ZEUS2068 word processors: MSCRIPT and TASMWD II. A hex dump is included for ease of data entry.

```

0000 41 0A 41 44 43 20 09 41
0001 44 44 20 00 41 4E 27 0A
0002 43 48 0A 41 4E 44 20 0E
0003 42 0A 42 43 0A 42 49 54
0004 20 08 43 0A 43 41 40 4C
0005 20 00 43 43 46 0A 43 50
0006 20 00 43 50 44 0A 43 50
0007 44 52 03 43 50 49 0A 43
0008 50 49 52 0A 43 50 4C 0A
0009 44 0A 44 41 43 0A 44 45
000A 0A 44 45 43 20 0E 44 45
000B 45 42 20 0E 44 45 48 4D
000C 20 08 44 45 46 53 20 0E
000D 44 45 46 57 20 00 44 49
000E 0A 44 40 53 50 20 0E 44
000F 4A 4E 5A 20 00 45 0A 45
0010
0011 49 0A 45 4E 5A 0A 45 51
0012 50 20 00 45 50 20 00 45
0013 50 50 0A 48 0A 48 41 4C
0014 5A 0A 4C 0A 49 0A 49
0015 42 20 00 49 4E 20 00 4B
0016 4E 43 20 0E 49 4E 44 0A
0017 49 4E 44 52 0A 49 4E 49
0018 0A 49 49 4E 52 0A 49 58
0019 4A 52 20 08 4C 0A 4C 44
001A 20 00 4C 44 44 0A 4C 44
001B 44 52 0A 4C 44 49 0A 4C
001C 40 49 57 0A 4C 0A 4C 43
001D 0A 4E 45 47 0A 4E 47 5D
001E 0A 4E 50 0A 4E 5A 0A 4F
001F 52 20 00 4F 52 47 20 0E
0020

```

Hex Dump of Z_2_M/T

Beta Basic 3.0

Over 100 New Commands For Spectrum/Emulated 2068

Reviewed by Robert D. Hartung

When I first loaded Beta Basic and began working my way through its well-written 90-page manual, my impression was, "low!" This is almost like having a poor man's QL! Of course this extension to Sinclair Basic must work within the hardware limitations of a T/S environment, but after a year of learning or way around it a bit I am even more convinced that it provides our "toy" computers with what is probably the most powerful Basic programming language available on any 8-bit micro today.

Many of its over 100 new and enhanced commands and functions have several variations. Except for TSO68 commands that are not available in Spectrum mode (STICK, SOUND, ON ERR, RESET, FREE) it is completely compatible with Basic programs that have been entered and saved on either a TSO68 or Spectrum. (Free bytes function NEXT, and ON ERROR line no. and ON ERROR statement ... are supported.) This means that any T/S Basic program that will fit under a #6679 HANTOP may be loaded in with BB in-residence and its TOC/IT features used to edit, split, join, re-number, or make block-moves or copies in the listing with all discrete line-references changed accordingly. Keying on a zero before any line number immediately brings that line into the editing area without shifting the listing display. AUTO line numbering in any step may be turned on or off.

After all this, if no BB-specific command words have been inserted into the listing, it may be saved again as a TSO68 or Spectrum program, or selected blocks of the listing or data in memory may be saved from the complete program. If saved with the special line 8 containing BB directives, it may contain any of the BB commands and will run with the BB code in-residence. As supplied, BB is cassette and MicroDrive compatible, with adaptations available that will work with VataDrive as well as Opus, Keempster, Oliger, and other Spectrum-compatible DOSs. It takes about 125 seconds to load from tape.

Personally, I would think this program worth having for its editing features alone, but that is barely the beginning of all that it does. Probably the one most powerful feature is that procedures can be created, each of which may then be called by a single word. In effect, this allows the user to create a library of new command words, limited only by your ingenuity and available memory. Procedure parameters and internal variables designated as LOCAL do not affect other program variables which have the same names. DEFAULT values for parameters and other variables may be pre-defined. DATA may be used as a procedure parameter.

By using stored addresses, FOR-NEXT loops run at constant speed anywhere in the listing, unlike T/S Basic, and are about 2 times faster at the first line, 2 times faster at the 100th, and 17 times faster at the 300th line. GO TO and GO SUB are also faster and RETURN is just as fast from the last line as from the first. The DO-LOOP structure is supported as well as WHILE, UNTIL, EXIT IF, ON, and ELSE. SORT will re-arrange any array of strings, numbers or letters in ascending or descending order--400 of them in about 3 seconds. INARRAY and INSTRIND will search for any given target string. ITEMID checks for the last item of DATA and whether any item is numeric or a string. READ LINE allows READ to work with DATA that otherwise would need quotes.

Graphic and display control are provided in any of 127 user-defined windows, with wraparound steel-by-pixel and attribute ROLL in any direction as well as SCROLL in any direction. FILL will surround all closed figures with designated PAPER color or fill any closed figure at given coordinates with designated INK color. CIIIIE provides characters in any case from 80 columns per line to one filling the entire screen, as well as reducing or enlarging any text or any portion of the display put into a string by GET, which you may then PLOT anywhere you want it on the screen. Plotting scale and G,O origin coordinates may be set with four special variables.

Other commands and functions include OVER 2 which allows superimposing printed or plotted text or graphics without affecting what is already there. STRINGS will print any character or string a given number of times. Cursor control codes may be embedded in text to change print positions in the display. USING or USINGS may be used to align printed columns of integer and decimal values and truncate to the desired number of places. LLIST expands token-words and TAB is translated to the proper number of spaces before being sent to a full-size printer. (The Profile printer driver routine will work in BB/ Spectrum mode by using POKE 63489,04 and POKE 63489,31 before moving it just below the BB code.) SCREEN recognizes UDBs along with the normal characters recognized by SCREENS. A real-time CLOCK provides options of display and/or audible alarm and/or timed GO SUB.

KEYWORDS n provides one-key entry of keywords, letter-by-letter entry, or combination of both. The KEYIN command actually can be used to create self-writing programs. All variables and their contents may be listed, or all lines that contain a given reference or procedure may be displayed in succession for examination or editing. The ALTER _ _ TO _ _ command may be used (but with caution!) to change every occurrence of a given word or

character-sequence wherever it appears in memory. A TRACE function may be used to single-step through a program for debugging. Strings, arrays, or blocks of data may be displayed for editing and may be moved, joined, or copied in memory. Any part of memory may be put into a string. LET $4+5+3+2$ is supported.

Any or all character keys may be user-defined to produce a complete program line or a conversion formula or an entire subroutine with one key-stroke, and these definitions may be saved with the program. Hex and decimal conversion functions are provided, as is decimal to binary and bit-by-bit AND, OR, and XOR of two numbers. CLEAR $n \times 748$ moves RAKTOP without loss of variables. BRBAK will stop machine code endless loops. Listing formats indent wrap-around lines to the fifth column for easier reading. Options provide listing of multi-statements on separate lines, with some commands indented further.

A random number function is 2 1/2 times faster than RNDn. SIN and COS functions give four-place accuracy 6 times faster than SIN and COS. SPOKE yields decimal result of a double PEEK and DPOKE does LBB. NSB doubles POSE of a decimal number to a given address. CHARA converts 0-255255 integer values to two-character strings and NUMBER converts them back, at a saving of 60% in use of memory. MOD gives remainder of one number modulo another.

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Since no review can provide the "picture that is better than a thousand words," with the permission of BetaSoft I have written a 201-byte deck which shows typical listings and runs actual examples of about 95 of the new and enhanced commands of this remarkable software for the Spectrum/Emulated T90048. It is available for \$5.00 to cover the cost of postage, packaging, tape, and handling by writing to me at 2416 N. County Line Rd., Husterston, IL 62748. Please note that, to protect BetaSoft's copyrights, the version of Beta Basic included to drive this deck will NOT allow editing or use with any other listing but the deck may be used as a tutorial when loaded with normal BB. Beta Basic 3.0 may be purchased for \$5.00 in British pounds (about \$25.00) from BetaSoft, 92 Oxford Rd., Kossley, Birmingham B15 9GG, England. Payment may be by international money order, or MasterCard for easier currency exchange.

Next Issue:

Professional TASWORD TWO.

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High-Res BLACKJACK

For the ZX81/TS1000/TS1500

by Fred Nachbaur



For many years now, we ZX81/TS1000/TS1500 users have had to contend with VYLR (Very Very Low Resolution) graphics. Not any more! With nothing more than a suitable static memory, ripped from 8-16k, we now have true high-resolution graphics for our machines!

By "suitable" I only mean that the static RAM's data must be accessible during refresh time. If you have a HUNTER Board, you can make a very simple modification to meet this requirement. Simply cut the line between the RAM chips pins 20 and edge connector pin 16A (RD*); bridge the resulting gap with a 4.7k resistor. Now connect a diode with its cathode (banded) end to edge connector 23A (RPSH*), and the other end to the RAM side of the new resistor. Alternately, contact SILICON MNT. COMPUTERS about our "SCRAM" board, which will do the job with no modifications.

Silicon Mountain also has "SCRAM HI*RES EXTENDED BASIC", which gives you 38 new high-resolution commands for BASIC. The purpose of this series of articles is to give a tutorial on the use of SRAM HI*RES, demonstrating how these new commands can be used to write spectacular graphics software...entirely from BASIC.

Editor's Note: You can contact Silicon Mountain Computers by writing to: C-12, Mrs. Sra. Group Box, Nelson, B.C., V1L 5P1, Canada. A complete line of interesting products are available for the Sinclair ZX81, TS1000 and TS1500. The "SCRAM" RAM Board is priced at \$39.95 postage paid; the "SCRAM HI*RES EXTENDED BASIC" software package is priced at \$24.95 p.d.; and other high-resolution graphics programs are available including the games DUNGEON OF YLR and HIGH-RES CHESS.

Since this article presupposes that you have SRAM HI*RES EXTENDED BASIC, I can already hear charges of "vested interest" in publishing a program that makes use of it. I must plead "no contest", but also point out that it is common practice for manufacturers in other fields to provide after-sale support via their trade magazines (like TIME DESIGNS). Granted, the SRAM HI*RES manual gives all the basic info on this new operating system, such as your computer manual gives "all you need to know" about your ROM operating system. Still, many users will find it necessary to get additional explanation in the way of articles and sample listings. This article, and the accompanying BLACKJACK listing, will attempt to get you familiar with the use of some of the new SRAM HI*RES commands.

THE DOCUMENTATION

Before we get on with it, here is the documentation for the BLACKJACK program published here. Look over the artwork for this article for an idea of the displays you will be seeing; these are all ACTUAL screen dumps of in-progress games!



The game of BLACKJACK is one of the most popular casino games, and for a good reason; it is one of the very few casino games where you can actually have odds over the house. A skilled Blackjack player can actually (in the long run) come out ahead, because of an estimated 2% advantage. Compare this to horse racing, with an estimated 25% loss, or lotteries with a typical 50% loss!

GETTING STARTED

Start by hooking up your ZX81, TS1000 or TS1500 (with 8k static RAM and a Tixel 16k RAM pack). Note #1: Larger RAMs will work, but you will still need the static RAM in the 8-16k region. Many 64k RAMs WILL NOT work on the 1500, however. Note #2: If you're using a TS1500, you'll still need the Tixel 16k pack in addition to the internal 16k. This is for the hardware reasons unique to the TS1500.

The first thing we'll do is enter a program that actually will be run only once! This is because there isn't enough room in 16k if we include it in the main listing. The purpose of this is to set up a dimensioned string array to hold the character codes for the UDG's used to print the images of the cards. Incidentally, this little "trick" demonstrates a use for your static RAM even in non-high res programs; use it anytime you need to import or export data (variables) between programs.

Enter LISTING 1. You don't have to enter the REM lines, they are only provided to help with the graphic characters. Proof the listing, save it to tape just in case you "mess up" later, and run it. This dimensioned string array to hold the character codes for the UDG's used to print the images of the cards. Incidentally, this little "trick" demonstrates a use for your static RAM even in non-high res programs; use it anytime you need to import or export data (variables) between programs.

Now enter REM, LOAD the SRAM HI*RES core program, and delete the extraneous lines 3-9999. Now type in line 2 of LISTING 2. Note that this also deletes the 64-column PRINT driver routine, which we won't be needing in this program. Just for safety's sake, enter the following REMs, which prevent accidentally calling the deleted 64 column routine:

```
POKE 10000,008
POKE 10001,75
```

Then, LIST 2 and POKE 16419,2. This prevents your listing from getting stuck at line 0. Henceforth, using only LIST (number greater than 2) instead of LIST (only) then, enter the program lines starting at 5900.

Now comes the nice part. Enter REM 9900. The CS array will be re-created, and filled with the proper contents from your 8k static RAM board! While we're at it, we define a few of the important variables that won't change throughout the program. You can now delete lines 5900 onwards, leaving you only with the line 2 REMs and of course the line 0000 REM. Henceforth, NEVER USE RUN OR CLEAR, or you will destroy these variables!

Though this seems restrictive, look at how much memory we have saved with this approach; the entire contents of LISTING 11:

ENTERING THE PROGRAM

Now we're finally set up to enter the program. For your convenience, we're publishing the entire program in this issue, reserving the detailed tutorials for subsequent issues. This will give you an actual, running program, even if you may not understand how it all works.

I suggest using FAST mode for program entry. The most laborious aspect is entering all the UDG and sprite definitions starting at line 9000, so I suggest you do this first to get it out of the way. If this seems like a lot of work, consider this: you don't have to design the pictures, break them into individual UDG's, translate them to hex, debug, modify, and debug again. I already did all that. All you have to do is type in the numbers, proofing and correcting as required.

I should note that the separator characters (or commas) between the hex numbers can be anything you wish: I like commas, but you may prefer spaces, or whatever. Similarly, I used other characters between each UDG (group of 8 numbers) to aid in entering the numbers originally; this merely indicates which character the subsequent UDG definition relates to, and made it easier for me to perfect the images. They have no other significance. Again, you might prefer to replace these with spaces, asterisks, or whatever.

Remember, once you start entering the program you must NEVER use RUN or CLEAR. To guard against disaster, save to tape frequently. A few minutes spent saving, while you go get another cup of coffee or stretch your legs, will be well worth it if your kids stumble over your power cord or your cat jumps onto the RAM pack. After entering each group of lines (e.g. every 100) proof your work. Errors will be easier to spot if you are dealing only with a small group of lines. Be careful to type in the listing exactly; at some points, even an omitted semicolon or space will cause improper program operation.

When you're all done, and have saved to tape, get ready for the show. Make a final save to tape using GOTO 8900; this will then autorun after the SAVE (or subsequent LOAD). The program initializes all the UDGs and sprites at line 9000, jumping to the actual program start at line 2000 when complete. (Though it looks like it would take a long time to execute all those definitions, i.e., 128 UDGs and 25 sprites, it actually happens in less than a second!)

Next time we'll dissect the program, explaining why some of those weird commands are there and how they work. Meanwhile, have fun! Don't spend all your money in one casino!

BLACKJACK

This program simulates the casino game very closely even though it doesn't allow refinements like doubling bets or splitting aces, but it does have the capability of using multiple decks. Also, it deals from a "true" deck, making it possible for you to practice "counting cards", a skill which will dramatically improve your odds in an actual game. (Be forewarned however, if you do count cards...do it discreetly since a casino will bounce you if it even suspects you of counting!) Also on that note, I must add the following disclaimer: "High-resolution BLACKJACK is intended for amusement purposes only. It is NOT to be used for actual gambling."

On loading, the program will start by itself and ask for your "bankroll". This is how much money you have when you walk into the casino. Enter the amount you're comfortable with (\$100 if you're conservative, \$1000 if you're a high-roller, etc.). Then enter how many decks

LISTING 1 CARD PATTERN GENERATOR/DOWNLOAD.P

```
10 FAST
20 DIM C$ 4,15 0 0
30 FOR S=1 TO 4
40 LET US=CHR$(174+S)
50 FOR I=1 TO 13
60   FOR B=1 TO 4
70     NEXT I
80 NEXT B
90 GOTO 8000
100 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
110 RET JRN
120 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
130 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
140 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
150 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
160 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
170 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
180 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
190 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
200 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
210 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
220 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
230 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
240 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
250 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
260 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
270 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
280 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
290 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
300 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
310 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
320 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
330 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
340 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
350 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
360 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
370 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
380 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
390 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
400 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
410 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
420 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
430 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
440 RETURN
450 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
460 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
470 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
480 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
490 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
500 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
510 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
520 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
530 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
540 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
550 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
560 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
570 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
580 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
590 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
600 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
610 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
620 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
630 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
640 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
650 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
660 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
670 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
680 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
690 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
700 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
710 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
720 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
730 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
740 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
750 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
760 LET C$(5,C,4,3)=S
```

Actual Screen Samples
From "BLACKJACK" →

you wish the dealer to use. This can be one-deck (makes it easier to count cards, keeping track of how many face cards are still in the deck), or more. According to reports, most casinos use three to five.

After shuffling the cards, the dealer asks how much you wish to bet. The "house limit" is \$2000, though you can of course change this by modifying the program. The dealer now deals two cards to himself and to you. His first card is face-up, subsequent cards will be face-down. Your cards will, of course, all be face-up. Presuming that neither of you got blackjack (ace and a 10-valued card, you are now asked "HIT?"). If you want another card, press "Y". If you wish to stay, press "N". The idea is to get your hand as close to 21 as possible, without going over ("busting"). Face cards count 10, aces count as either 1 or 11. All others count as their face value.

The dealer's rules follow the convention used in most casinos. If he has less than 17, he must take another card. If he has 17 or more, he must stay. The exception is a "soft 17" (ace plus cards totalling 6), in which case he must take another card. After each hand, the dealer reveals his cards. Press P to play the next hand. (If you don't want to wait until all the cards have been turned up, simply hold down "P" and the program will go on to the next hand between cards.)

If you get Blackjack, the house pays 2:1. (This is actually a little generous, but I'm a generous kind of guy...) On the other hand, it's obviously impossible for your computer to "pay off" if you do well, so the game will continue to play until you blow your wad, at which time it will insult you. (Isn't that a lot like life?) At the end of the game, you can press "P" to play again from the beginning, or "Q" to quit to the normal operating system.


```
1000 REM ***** IF SS-J1-N1
1010 LET P=INT #1
1020 LET P=INT #131+N1
1030 LET P=INT #131+N1
1040 LET P=INT #131+N1
1050 LET P=INT #131+N1
1060 IF NOT T THEN LET A(DIN1),N
1070 IF NOT T THEN LET A(DIN1),2
1080 LET U,I
1090 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1100 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1110 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1120 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1130 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1140 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1150 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1160 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1170 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1180 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1190 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1200 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1210 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1220 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1230 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1240 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1250 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1260 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1270 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1280 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1290 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1300 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1310 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1320 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1330 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1340 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1350 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1360 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1370 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1380 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1390 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1400 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1410 IF L1=50 THEN C=J10
1420 OPTION
1430 IF USR HR THEN PRINT AT 3
1440 IF USR HR THEN PRINT AT 3,NE
```

```
3000 IF USR HR THEN PRINT "T",P,
3010 TAB 50;
3020 TAB 50;
3030 TAB 50;
3040 TAB 50;
3050 TAB 50;
3060 TAB 50;
3070 TAB 50;
3080 TAB 50;
3090 TAB 50;
3100 TAB 50;
3110 TAB 50;
3120 TAB 50;
3130 TAB 50;
3140 TAB 50;
3150 TAB 50;
3160 TAB 50;
3170 TAB 50;
3180 TAB 50;
3190 TAB 50;
3200 TAB 50;
3210 TAB 50;
3220 TAB 50;
3230 TAB 50;
3240 TAB 50;
3250 TAB 50;
3260 TAB 50;
3270 TAB 50;
3280 TAB 50;
3290 TAB 50;
3300 TAB 50;
3310 TAB 50;
3320 TAB 50;
3330 TAB 50;
3340 TAB 50;
3350 TAB 50;
3360 TAB 50;
3370 TAB 50;
3380 TAB 50;
3390 TAB 50;
3400 TAB 50;
3410 TAB 50;
3420 TAB 50;
3430 TAB 50;
3440 TAB 50;
3450 TAB 50;
3460 TAB 50;
3470 TAB 50;
3480 TAB 50;
3490 TAB 50;
3500 TAB 50;
3510 TAB 50;
3520 TAB 50;
3530 TAB 50;
3540 TAB 50;
3550 TAB 50;
3560 TAB 50;
3570 TAB 50;
3580 TAB 50;
3590 TAB 50;
3600 TAB 50;
3610 TAB 50;
3620 TAB 50;
3630 TAB 50;
3640 TAB 50;
3650 TAB 50;
3660 TAB 50;
3670 TAB 50;
3680 TAB 50;
3690 TAB 50;
3700 TAB 50;
3710 TAB 50;
3720 TAB 50;
3730 TAB 50;
3740 TAB 50;
3750 TAB 50;
3760 TAB 50;
3770 TAB 50;
3780 TAB 50;
3790 TAB 50;
3800 TAB 50;
3810 TAB 50;
3820 TAB 50;
3830 TAB 50;
3840 TAB 50;
3850 TAB 50;
3860 TAB 50;
3870 TAB 50;
3880 TAB 50;
3890 TAB 50;
3900 TAB 50;
3910 TAB 50;
3920 TAB 50;
3930 TAB 50;
3940 TAB 50;
3950 TAB 50;
3960 TAB 50;
3970 TAB 50;
3980 TAB 50;
3990 TAB 50;
4000 TAB 50;
4010 TAB 50;
4020 TAB 50;
4030 TAB 50;
4040 TAB 50;
4050 TAB 50;
4060 TAB 50;
4070 TAB 50;
4080 TAB 50;
4090 TAB 50;
4100 TAB 50;
4110 TAB 50;
4120 TAB 50;
4130 TAB 50;
4140 TAB 50;
4150 TAB 50;
4160 TAB 50;
4170 TAB 50;
4180 TAB 50;
4190 TAB 50;
4200 TAB 50;
4210 TAB 50;
4220 TAB 50;
4230 TAB 50;
4240 TAB 50;
4250 TAB 50;
4260 TAB 50;
4270 TAB 50;
4280 TAB 50;
4290 TAB 50;
4300 TAB 50;
4310 TAB 50;
4320 TAB 50;
4330 TAB 50;
4340 TAB 50;
4350 TAB 50;
4360 TAB 50;
4370 TAB 50;
4380 TAB 50;
4390 TAB 50;
4400 TAB 50;
4410 TAB 50;
4420 TAB 50;
4430 TAB 50;
4440 TAB 50;
4450 TAB 50;
4460 TAB 50;
4470 TAB 50;
4480 TAB 50;
4490 TAB 50;
4500 TAB 50;
4510 TAB 50;
4520 TAB 50;
4530 TAB 50;
4540 TAB 50;
4550 TAB 50;
4560 TAB 50;
4570 TAB 50;
4580 TAB 50;
4590 TAB 50;
4600 TAB 50;
4610 TAB 50;
4620 TAB 50;
4630 TAB 50;
4640 TAB 50;
4650 TAB 50;
4660 TAB 50;
4670 TAB 50;
4680 TAB 50;
4690 TAB 50;
4700 TAB 50;
4710 TAB 50;
4720 TAB 50;
4730 TAB 50;
4740 TAB 50;
4750 TAB 50;
4760 TAB 50;
4770 TAB 50;
4780 TAB 50;
4790 TAB 50;
4800 TAB 50;
4810 TAB 50;
4820 TAB 50;
4830 TAB 50;
4840 TAB 50;
4850 TAB 50;
4860 TAB 50;
4870 TAB 50;
4880 TAB 50;
4890 TAB 50;
4900 TAB 50;
4910 TAB 50;
4920 TAB 50;
4930 TAB 50;
4940 TAB 50;
4950 TAB 50;
4960 TAB 50;
4970 TAB 50;
4980 TAB 50;
4990 TAB 50;
5000 TAB 50;
```

```
3420 GOTO 2580
3430 IF USR HR THEN PRINT "MONEY
ALL GONE. NEXT SUCKER?
3440 IF INKEYS="P" THEN GOTO VAL
"2580"
3450 IF INKEYS="O" THEN GOTO UR
L"3470"
3460 GOTO 10
3470 IF USR HR THEN RETURN
3480 GOTO 2580
3490 GOTO 2580
3500 GOTO 2580
3510 GOTO 2580
3520 GOTO 2580
3530 GOTO 2580
3540 GOTO 2580
3550 GOTO 2580
3560 GOTO 2580
3570 GOTO 2580
3580 GOTO 2580
3590 GOTO 2580
3600 GOTO 2580
3610 GOTO 2580
3620 GOTO 2580
3630 GOTO 2580
3640 GOTO 2580
3650 GOTO 2580
3660 GOTO 2580
3670 GOTO 2580
3680 GOTO 2580
3690 GOTO 2580
3700 GOTO 2580
3710 GOTO 2580
3720 GOTO 2580
3730 GOTO 2580
3740 GOTO 2580
3750 GOTO 2580
3760 GOTO 2580
3770 GOTO 2580
3780 GOTO 2580
3790 GOTO 2580
3800 GOTO 2580
3810 GOTO 2580
3820 GOTO 2580
3830 GOTO 2580
3840 GOTO 2580
3850 GOTO 2580
3860 GOTO 2580
3870 GOTO 2580
3880 GOTO 2580
3890 GOTO 2580
3900 GOTO 2580
3910 GOTO 2580
3920 GOTO 2580
3930 GOTO 2580
3940 GOTO 2580
3950 GOTO 2580
3960 GOTO 2580
3970 GOTO 2580
3980 GOTO 2580
3990 GOTO 2580
4000 GOTO 2580
4010 GOTO 2580
4020 GOTO 2580
4030 GOTO 2580
4040 GOTO 2580
4050 GOTO 2580
4060 GOTO 2580
4070 GOTO 2580
4080 GOTO 2580
4090 GOTO 2580
4100 GOTO 2580
4110 GOTO 2580
4120 GOTO 2580
4130 GOTO 2580
4140 GOTO 2580
4150 GOTO 2580
4160 GOTO 2580
4170 GOTO 2580
4180 GOTO 2580
4190 GOTO 2580
4200 GOTO 2580
4210 GOTO 2580
4220 GOTO 2580
4230 GOTO 2580
4240 GOTO 2580
4250 GOTO 2580
4260 GOTO 2580
4270 GOTO 2580
4280 GOTO 2580
4290 GOTO 2580
4300 GOTO 2580
4310 GOTO 2580
4320 GOTO 2580
4330 GOTO 2580
4340 GOTO 2580
4350 GOTO 2580
4360 GOTO 2580
4370 GOTO 2580
4380 GOTO 2580
4390 GOTO 2580
4400 GOTO 2580
4410 GOTO 2580
4420 GOTO 2580
4430 GOTO 2580
4440 GOTO 2580
4450 GOTO 2580
4460 GOTO 2580
4470 GOTO 2580
4480 GOTO 2580
4490 GOTO 2580
4500 GOTO 2580
4510 GOTO 2580
4520 GOTO 2580
4530 GOTO 2580
4540 GOTO 2580
4550 GOTO 2580
4560 GOTO 2580
4570 GOTO 2580
4580 GOTO 2580
4590 GOTO 2580
4600 GOTO 2580
4610 GOTO 2580
4620 GOTO 2580
4630 GOTO 2580
4640 GOTO 2580
4650 GOTO 2580
4660 GOTO 2580
4670 GOTO 2580
4680 GOTO 2580
4690 GOTO 2580
4700 GOTO 2580
4710 GOTO 2580
4720 GOTO 2580
4730 GOTO 2580
4740 GOTO 2580
4750 GOTO 2580
4760 GOTO 2580
4770 GOTO 2580
4780 GOTO 2580
4790 GOTO 2580
4800 GOTO 2580
4810 GOTO 2580
4820 GOTO 2580
4830 GOTO 2580
4840 GOTO 2580
4850 GOTO 2580
4860 GOTO 2580
4870 GOTO 2580
4880 GOTO 2580
4890 GOTO 2580
4900 GOTO 2580
4910 GOTO 2580
4920 GOTO 2580
4930 GOTO 2580
4940 GOTO 2580
4950 GOTO 2580
4960 GOTO 2580
4970 GOTO 2580
4980 GOTO 2580
4990 GOTO 2580
5000 GOTO 2580;
```

```

9014 IF USR HR THEN LPRINT U,"
10 14 17 09 48 00 00 0000 01
01 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11
02 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
03 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33
04 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44
05 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
06 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66
07 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77
08 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88
09 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99
10 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110
11 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121
12 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132
13 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143
14 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154
15 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165
16 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176
17 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187
18 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198
19 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209
20 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220
21 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231
22 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242
23 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253
24 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264
25 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275
26 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286
27 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297
28 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308
29 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319
30 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330
31 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341
32 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352
33 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363
34 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374
35 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385
36 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396
37 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407
38 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418
39 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429
40 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440
41 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451
42 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462
43 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473
44 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484
45 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495
46 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506
47 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517
48 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528
49 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539
50 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550
51 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561
52 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572
53 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583
54 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594
55 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605
56 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616
57 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627
58 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638
59 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649
60 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660
61 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671
62 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682
63 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693
64 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704
65 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715
66 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726
67 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737
68 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748
69 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759
70 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770
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```

WAX UP THE SOLDERING IRONS!

First, using the proper anti-static procedures, take off the back of the TRX-2 case and remove the PCB from the case. The modification can be done with the keyboard connected but I don't recommend going it that way. With the PCB out and on the anti-static mat, remove the old SRAMs and sockets if there are any. If you are modifying a KE 2281, remove jumper L81, and install L82.

Next, perform the four cuts shown in FIGURE 1, then install a 25 pin socket where the 2E ram would go. Being FIGURE 3, prepare the 74LS145 as shown and install it where the L877 is SRAM would normally go. You'll need to slightly spread pin 16 up to pad 18 and solder, then spread pin 8 down to pad 9 and solder. This brings to the 6 volts for the 74LS145 chip.

Connect up the remaining wires, diodes, and transistor as shown in FIGURE 1 & 3 then reconnect the keyboard cables (carefully! if you have disconnected them). Turn the PCB over and perform the six cuts & 7 adds as shown in FIGURE 2. NOTE: Adds numbered 1 & 8 should be slightly larger wires than the standard 30 gauge wire-wrap type wire, as these see 5 volts on to other logic. Now add the two resistors and one diode as shown in FIGURE 2.

Plug in ONE 62256 SRAM into the 25 pin socket, screw the PCB into the top half of the case and power up. You should get the "E" cursor in a few seconds. Remove PH17 PEEK 16505 + 256 & PEEK 16505. This should give you 32768. If this works, power off, remove the 62256 SRAM and perform the "piggy-back" modification shown in FIGURE 4. Install the "piggy-back" SRAMs into the 25 pin socket and connect up the top SRAM's CS wire to the 74LS145 as shown in FIGURE 3. Power up and execute one at a time.

- 1) PEEK 16366, 256
- 2) PEEK 16369, 256
- 3) PEEK
- 4) PH17 PEEK 16366 + 256 & PEEK 16369

This should give you 65536 . . . INTERESTALLY! Make sure that switch S1 is off (open). You can mount S1 anywhere you have room for in the case.

The SRAMs are available from MICROPROCESSORS UNLIMITED for \$14.95 each plus 36 second day Federal Express delivery. They don't have a minimum order restriction and can be reached at 301 267-4961. I would expect the price to drop another two to four dollars by the time this article is in print.

Tim Stoddard
82-45 60th Road
Hugo Park, NY 11374
CompuServe 73127,2664

Figure #3

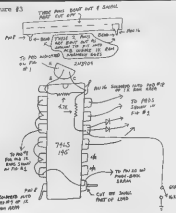
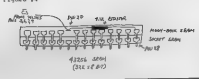


Figure #4



A STUDY IN NUMBERS

by Syd Wynncoop

Why would we want to study numbers? Because our computers really understand numbers. You may realize. "My computer knows Basic" or any of several other languages but, the truth of the matter is that it does not know or understand any language other than the assembly language of the Central Processing Unit (CPU). All languages and hence, all programs are stored in the computer memory as numbers. Look, for a moment, at your Sinclair's 245. Since all numbers are numbers, it behooves us to know a little bit about them. I don't know what you but, I hate numbers that are easier than I am.

All languages used by any computer, except assembly, are referred to as "high level" languages. High level languages come in two varieties: compiled and interpreted. Compiled languages are converted (compiled) into the CPU's assembly language and run as machine code and therefore run quicker than interpreted languages. Interpreted languages are interpreted into assembly

language at the time of execution. They will run as machine code but, much slower. Due to the interpreter processing time which uses a library of lookups, which are slower by their very nature.

We do not need to learn assembly programming to use our computers however, understanding the numbers and why different bases are used will help us be more efficient programmers in the language of our choice. Of course, many of you may have desired to know more about machine code and been afraid to tackle it. After all, those long hex (whatever that is) dumps in the magazines seldom make sense. Or maybe you have read those technical manuals and wondered why anyone would resort to such verbosity. If this describes you, then perhaps the following study can be of help.

We are going to attempt to thoroughly understand three number systems or bases as they are properly called. There is a fourth base, Octal, which I will not discuss here as you will seldom encounter it. Octal will be found in the programming

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WE WANT TO SERVE YOUR NEEDS!
IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE US CARRY, LET US KNOW! MAYBE WE CAN SAVE YOU MONEY ON IT!!

notes published by chip manufacturers and can be useful however, we can do quite well without it for this study. Each base will be discussed separately however, I will make references back to Decimal, so that is the one we all use today.

Decimal (Base 10)

The first 10 Decimal (dec), or base 10 numbers. We are all familiar with decimal as we use it every day to count our bags of money and for various other tasks. Most of us learned in school that the columns of digits represent ones, tens, hundreds, etc. For example:

```

  1 2 3 4
  1 0 0 0
  1 0 0
  1 0
  1
  1 2 3 4
  
```

What you may not recall is, each column represents 10 (the one raised to the power of the number of the column as counted from right to left, starting at zero. Hows that for doubletalk? Follow through this example, to see that 1234 decimal really means:

```

10^0 = 1x4 = 4
10^1 = 10x3 = 30
10^2 = 100x2 = 200
10^3 = 1000x1 = 1000
-----
Total = 1234
  
```

Study this carefully as it is the simplest example we will have and it must be understood or the rest will really seem like Greek to you.

Before continuing, it bears mentioning that all bases are represented by the digits 0 to Base-1. Base 10 is therefore represented by the digits 0 to 9. It is these digits which then represent a multiple of a power of the base. As above (10^3=1000). No digit can be greater than Base-1 because at the point it equals the Base there is a carry to the next column. For instance, in base 10, 9+1=10 and carry 1 to next column. All of this should be familiar to you but if you are like me, you

haven't given it much thought since school. No, I won't say how long ago that was!

Binary (Base 2)

Now for the hard stuff, Binary (bin), or base 2. Following our discussion of the last paragraph, we can only represent binary numbers with the digits 0 and 1 (remember base-1). This means our columns also must have meanings other than ones, tens etc. They now become ones, twos, fours, eights, sixteens etc which are the columns of 2 (our base) instead of powers of 10. For example

```

  1 0 1 1
  1 0 0 0
  1 0 0
  1 0
  1
  1 0 1 1
  
```

As in our previous example, 1011 really means

```

2^0 = 1x1 = 1
2^1 = 2x1 = 2
2^2 = 4x0 = 0
2^3 = 8x1 = 8
-----
Total = 11 decimal
  
```

Now you know why we count in decimal! You thought it was because we have ten fingers. Imagine having hands with two fingers on each hand. Binary would then seem as easy as decimal if you have any difficulty with this, go back to the discussion on decimal and compare it with this one. Only the base is different.

What you have just learned is how to convert binary to decimal. The procedure for converting decimal to binary is similar. Briefly, divide your number by the largest power of two not larger than your number. You continue this process with successively smaller powers of two until you have reached 2^0. At which time there should not be a remainder. Write down (left to right) a 1 when the division is possible and a 0 when not possible. Using our example of 11

Step	Do	Result
1	11/4=2 R3 so therefore, 2's or 4 is the number we want.	
2	2^3=8 and 11/8 remainder 3	1
3	2^2=4 and 3/4=0 remainder 3	10

- 4. 2¹⁰ and 2²⁰ remainder 1 391
- 5. 2¹⁰ and 2²⁰ remainder 8 392
- 6. Name the conversion of the decimal to BAC binary

Some of you may be wondering what the point of all this is after all I hardly passed math in school. My brother with this new! The point is, while decimal is more comfortable for us humans, binary better represents how our computer "thinks". An explanation of the CPU is in order. This is background only to give you some understanding why the "smear" computer doesn't understand decimal. The CPU (which is 256 in size) doesn't use a collection of transistors and translators are simply electronic switches. For those of you who know better, please bear with me. My word will justify the words you use. Simplification. We have a switch. A switch can either be on or off. Binary allows us to represent the on/off status with one and zero, respectively. Not quite perfect but it will do. The first binary number you will see will have eight digits or some multiple thereof. This is accomplished by padding out the number with leading zeros. For instance, 1011 binary would be written as 00001011. We will use the eight binary digits (bits) in that eight bits make one byte.

A byte is not what your neighbors' dog puts on you. A byte is the "currency" of your CPU. A word is the number of bits handled as a complete unit by the CPU and is commonly referred to as a byte. The 256 is an eight bit CPU therefore one byte/corresponding bits words and bytes are not exactly the same, but will suffice here. You do not need to understand the internal workings of the CPU in order to understand binary numbers. Binary is much simpler than decimal. The reason is assembly is assembly. Unless you decide to learn assembly you will seldom work directly in binary due to the difficulty keeping the digits correct, which leads to a bad case.

Hexadecimal (Base 16)

Now that we have entered binary we can add into the list of the three number systems. Hexadecimal (hex) or base 16 is used because it works very well as a shorthand for that awful binary. I have provided several charts for your convenience for use to decimal and hex to binary. The hex system, do not leave me, things are about to make sense.

One challenge we have with hex is that there are not enough digits for 0 to 9. We have 16 digits 0-9 which will work fine for the first ten digits. We need to represent for the last six digits and someone has wiser than me (I?) already solved this dilemma. The digits needed to represent 16 are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F.

Now that we have the digits, we need to recognize the form taken by hex numbers. Just as binary are usually eight digit strings, hex numbers are always two (or some multiple of two) digit long. This makes sense. See follows:

```
00.01.02.03. . . .0A.0B.0C.0D.0E.0F.
1E.1F.10. . . .1D.1E.1F.
20. . . . .2F.
```

A close look at the hex to decimal conversion chart will make this much clearer.

You may occasionally see hex numbers that have an odd number of digits. The first two digits are on the second letter, such as 0FFH. Do not use a leading zero however, be aware some assemblies require it, therefore you may see it. There is no need to go into the math needed to convert between hex and decimal as the chart provided will serve the purpose much better, easier and faster. Those of you interested in working out the details need only follow the examples for decimal and binary. Keep in mind the base is now 16 therefore, the columns of digits will represent nine sixteen, two hundred-forty-six, etc.

All this brings us to what I mean by hex being a shorthand for binary and the reason we are ever interested in hex. A close look at the hex to binary conversion chart will make this more obvious. You can readily see that digits can be represented by one hex digit. For those of you who understood my readings about bytes, four bits is a small byte (also known as a nibble) and a byte however, it is not needed as decimal is the default. We can represent any eight bit byte with only two hex digits.

You may recognize that this is not what we need for this. Decimal requires numbers converted to binary with the same ease as hex. Also, numbers larger than 255 will really create some headaches that hex helps solve (more on this in a minute).

We now know how to write numbers in three bases, decimal, binary, and hex. In order to avoid confusion we need to make a proper convention. The convention we should always prefix all binary numbers with a 'b' (BINARY) and all hex numbers with a 'h' (HEX). For instance, b10000000 and h10000000. Numbers however, it is not needed as decimal is the default. We will do this even though some numbers can obviously only be hex (FFH). You must always be careful to follow this notation or you will create unnecessary confusion.

You should take some time to practice using all the charts. Also, practice simple arithmetic in each base (add, sub, mul & div). You can use the charts to check your answers. Before long you will be thinking in hex and binary as easily as you now do in decimal.

Oh, I'll look at how numbers larger than 255 are stored and handled by the CPU.

That's twice I mentioned 256 without an explanation. The reason 256 is so important because it is based on two base 256 numbers. I'm not going to boggle your mind with this number written as it is not created by us, only the CPU uses it. Why in the world do we use the 256 number as our standard? Before long our discussion of binary, bytes and related whatever. Remember, we padded out our binary numbers to eight digits as 00001011. The 256 is eight digits as the CPU uses hex. 256 is 2⁸.

2⁸ Telling on your own, figure out what 11111111 means in decimal.

We can actually store numbers between 0 and 255 by tying two bytes together. This is done by the CPU automatically to generate addresses. The second byte is increased by a factor of 256 as the first byte that generates a carry out of the first byte. For example:

```
11111111
+-----+
1
1000000000
```

Remember, 1st binary = 0 and carry 1 just as 01 does in decimal. Work out the above problem yourself to see how the result is achieved. You will notice we now have a number which is nine digits long. In truth, the actual number is 1000000000. However, because we are tying two bytes together and each byte is padded out to eight digits. Since our number is now nine digits long, the largest number we can store is 2¹⁶-1 or 65535.

You can now see why we need a shorthand for binary. Today, we rarely work with large binary numbers as it is too easy to lose track. We will not discuss binary numbers larger than eight digits either. If you decide to learn an assembly language, you will probably only use binary when working with the logic instructions. You may find it interesting that early programmers had to use only binary numbers and they were entered from a panel of switches instead of a keyboard. Today, using machine code is much easier and has a much easier to work with.

That did I mean, "tie two bytes together and increase one of them by a factor of 256". Let's assume our number is stored in byte 1 and byte 2. The formula to recover our number is:

Peak byte 1 + Peak byte 2 x 256

Looks a little familiar? You probably have seen something similar before and did not know what was happening. The byte we increase by the factor of 256 is called the high byte which makes the other byte the low byte. Using high/low connectors our formula becomes:

Peak low byte + Peak high byte x 256

One regularly designed into the CPU is that contrary to the number systems we have discussed, the CPU stores the low byte first. This must be kept in mind when you work with the results you are trying to achieve. Scan the list of system variables in your standard manual and use this formula on some of the 2 byte variables. The results are the address at which that area of memory begins.

Review some of the areas of your standard manual that did not make sense before. Especially the chapters on memory system, machine code, system variables, memory, and the appendix. There is a wealth of information there however, it is presented so poorly that it may not have been useful. This compare notes with the other and you will be well on the way to understanding machine code.

Hex/Bin Conversions

Hex	Bin	Hex	Bin
0	0000	A	1010
1	0001	B	1011
2	0010	C	1100
3	0011	D	1101
4	0100	E	1110
5	0101	F	1111

To use any four bits can be represented by a single hex digit. For example, 10100100 = Ah.

Hex/Dec Conversions

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111
112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127
128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159
160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175
176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191
192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207
208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223
224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239
240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255

To use find your decimal number, follow to left while the first hex digit and up for second hex digit. For example 237 = 25h.

NUMBER BASE CONVERTER

by Syd Wyncoop

This program runs on
the TS2066 or the ZX81

This is a useful BASIC routine to do conversions between number bases. It will run on both the ZX81 and TS2066. I have included in the listing the necessary changes for the ZX81 (or TS1000/TS1500). The only other requirement to run on the ZX81 would be to break the multi-statement lines into all single statement lines.

```
1 BORDER@ PAPER 5 INK 4 C
LS
2 ON ERR GO TO 999
3 GO TO 1000
100 REM Decimal to Hex
  Entry a=decimal number
  Exit a=hex number
  n=hex number
110 LET n$="": LET h$=INT (a/256)
120 LET h1$a=h$+256
130 IF h1<1 THEN LET h$="00"
GO TO 140
130 LET h1$h=h$ GO SUB 150
140 LET n1=h1
150 LET n1=INT (n1/16): LET n2=n1-
  n1*16
160 LET h1$h=h$+CHR$(n1+48*(7 AND
  n2>9))
170 RETURN
180 REM TS1000 users replace
line 150 with: LET h1$h=h$+CHR$(
  n1+25)+CHR$(n2+28)
200 REM Hex to Decimal
  Entry a$=hex number
  Exit a=decimal number
  n=decimal number
210 LET n$="": LET a=0
```

```
220 IF LEN h$(3) THEN GO TO 250
230 GO SUB 260
240 LET a=a*256: LET h$=h$(3 TO )
250 LET a+=(CODE h$(48-(7 AND
  h$(2)))+16*(CODE h$(2)+48-(7 AND
  h$(2))>9))
260 RETURN
280 REM TS1000 users replace
line 250 with: LET a+=(CODE h$(
  28)+16*(CODE h$(2) 28)
300 REM Decimal to Binary
  Entry a=decimal number
  Exit a=decimal number
  n=decimal number
  b$=binary number
310 LET b$="00000000" LET n=a
  IF n>255 THEN LET n=INT (n/256)
610 LET n1$a=n*256 GO SUB 360
  LET n1$h$ LET n1$="00000000"
  LET n1$a1 GO SUB 360 LET n1$h$a$
  +8* RETURN
380 FOR i 1 TO 8 STEP -1
370 IF n1>2 THEN LET b$(i-1)
  +="1" LET n1=n1-2
390 NEXT i RETURN
400 REM Binary to Decimal
  Entry a$=binary number
  Exit a=decimal number
  n=decimal number
  b1=b$ LET n1$a$ LET a=0 LET n1=
  LEN b1
420 FOR i=n TO 0 STEP -1
430 IF b$(i)="" THEN LET a+a*
  2
440 LET b1$b$(2 TO ) NEXT i
450 RETURN
600 REM Set Decimal Tabs
510 LET t=4
```

```
520 LET T=(1 AND A)/1000-(1 AND A)/10000-(1 AND A)/100000-(1 AND A)/1000000
530 RETURN
590 REM Error Trap
610 PRINT #0, "Invalid Entry--P1
  *** Try Again PAUSE 150
620 GO TO 1030
1000 REM Main Loop
1010 PRINT "TAB 8 , NUMBER CONVE
  WIER"
1020 PRINT "Be sure to append a
  'E' or 'B' to all binary and
  hexadecimal""notices, respecti
  vely.""There is no suffix req
  uired for decimal numbers, as t
  hey are the default."
1030 POKE 23856,0: INPUT AT 0,0,
  "Type number and press ENTER"
  LINE #0 LET n1$=LN$
  1040 IF AS$(n1$) THEN LET a$=a$
  $( TO n1-1) GO TO 1070
  1050 IF AS$(n1$) THEN LET a$=a$
  $( TO n1-1) GO SUB 200. GO TO 1
  1060 IF AS$(n1$) THEN LET a$=a$
  $( TO n1-1) GO SUB 400 GO TO 1
  800
  1070 LET A=VAL AS
  1080 GO SUB 100 GO SUB 300 GO
  SUB 500
  1090 PRINT AT 16,0, "Dec Hex
  -----
  Bin"
  1100 PRINT AT 16,T,AS:TAB 6, n1$:"h
    ,TAB 15, n1$:"b"
  1110 GO TO 1030
9990 MOVE "NumConv bas",1
```

Beginning Z80 Machine Code

LESSON EIGHT By Syd Wyncoop

Last time we covered a lot of ground by attempting quickly over it. If you did not understand all the rotate and shift instructions, don't worry. We will get along fine without them for now. You should however save some space for the logical instructions, AND, OR and XOR, long enough, as they are very useful.

You will also need to review my article on number systems, as a thorough explanation of Binary is given there. For this lesson, I did not give much explanation of Binary in the last lesson.

Now, lets discuss some instructions that are off in the error by themselves. The first is RST, which is used to clear the overflow. You guessed it, it doesn't do anything. Almost the purpose of RST is to waste time (4 T states) and provide a space filler. No flags are affected.

RST is also used by as programmers to fix our errors. You can replace unwanted instructions with a RST, by direct passing, rather than re-executing a large section of code.

CP is another instruction the accumulator. We have briefly mentioned complementing a few times. The result is to invert all bits. For example, assume the accumulator contains 1B1B1B1B after complementing, the accumulator will contain 84848484.

NEG will negate (2's complement) the accumulator. Negating the one's value of 1B1B1B1B in the accumulator will yield 84848484. Creating the two's complement of a number is done by complementing the number and adding one. NEG performs this operation on the contents of the accumulator. For example plus 2 in two's complement will equal zero.

The last instruction is DEC which means Decrement Adjust Accumulator. This instruction works in conjunction with the RST and RND instructions from last lesson. As I stated then, I have not found a good use for these instructions. I will however give a brief description of their purpose, as you may encounter them.

DEC adjusts the accumulator for Binary Coded Decimal (BCD) addition and subtraction operations. In order to understand how 800 fits rotate, we need to understand BCD.

BCD is a method of representing a decimal digit (0-9) in four bits, such that the ones or any single hex digit (0-F) can be. This means that 15BCD is 00011011 in binary digits and not the usual 00001111 that we would expect. This is because there are no representations 10,11,12,13,14,15 in binary, as they are either greater than 9 or any four bits, in BCD.

The problem is that our old friend, CPU does not know whether we want to store decimal or hex digits in its words. Therefore, we will check the half-carry flag to determine when to adjust the binary result, back to a decimal digit. The only advantage to BCD, that I have found, is that it makes the retrieval of decimal digits easier.

As I have said, I do not subscribe to the philosophy that BCD is a necessary or useful tool. Therefore, I will dwell on it no longer. You can find texts on the subject, if you are interested.

All the instructions for this lesson (72a-72e) have been getting long-winded. I did however leave some of you hanging last lesson with the question, "What is source code?" This question was raised by some readers requesting information and instructions on the use of assembler.

I must make very general comments on each assembler has its own set of commands. Unfortunately, the best way to learn the commands is to use the assembler. The basic operation of assemblers is simple. They allow us humans to type in our programs in assembly language instead of hex digits. The assembler then does our conversion to assemble the binary instructions that we understand by the CPU.

Assemblers are basically two types of assemblers. The first is an interactive or virtual assembler. A good example is M68K by Ray Kingdon. This type of assembler is a little more difficult to use but much easier. It doesn't take the RT in place as you type in the commands. The disadvantage is that it is not as easy to save and re-load large sections of code.

"THREAD SPOOLING" WITH THE CUMANA QL DISK DRIVE INTERFACE

by Joe Newman

They call it the "bargain" interface, or the "economy" interface. I prefer not to refer to it as this, because of the negative connotations of the words "bargain" or "economy". Sure the Cumana is the cheapest disk drive interface (along with the CS2) for the QL, but it is more than just a disk interface.

Before I got my first Cumana interface, I didn't realize the power potential for this little black device. Only when I started looking through the nicely printed manual at the EXTRA COMMANDS that the interface adds to SuperBASIC, did I start to realize the Cumana's potential. I started to examine this potential, and discovered a few very interesting things.

In this article, we'll examine a useful and easy to use feature of the Cumana known as "Print Spooling". Print Spooling allows you to send a file to a "spool", which will then send all files on the spool to the printer. The printing is a background job on the QL...in other words, files print out while you still have complete control of SuperBASIC. This can save such time, especially if you have some long files to print out. You can send a file to the spool, and the file will be printing out while you are typing in some program lines! You are no longer limited to the taffer of your printer!

The example program I have made is for printing out more than one QUILL (QL Wordprocessor) file. Imagine that you have five or six letters to type, but don't wish to wait for each letter to print out while you type the next one. To use my program, you just PRINT your letters to disk, then use my program to print out all the letters at once, at your convenience.

In order to print a file to disk, first type your article, letter, or whatever, then choose the print command in Quill (Hit F3, then F). Now hit ENTER twice only! The prompts that you press ENTER to are: Current, and Whole. Now instead of hitting ENTER for printer, type in a name (such as "letter1"), then hit ENTER. Your file will now be stored on disk in the exact format as if it were printed out. In order to be able to use my print spooling program, you MUST print all files you wish to spool to disk in that manner.

Once you have completed your typing and are ready to print your letters, load my program into your QL, RUN it and the following will happen: you will be asked "Number of files to print?". Enter the total number of files you wish to print at that time. You will then be asked "Drive to use (1 or 2)". Enter the number of the drive your disk with the files is in. You can enter a number greater than 2 if you have more than 2 drives. Next you are warned that any file which is spooled CANNOT be removed from the spool until it prints. There is no way to stop the printing of a file unless you reset the QL. So make sure you print the right files. Now you will be asked to enter the name of the file you wish to spool. Just enter the filename itself; the drive name and extension LIS will be automatically added (the LIS extension is added by Quill to all files which are printed to disk). Your disk should "whir" and the printer will start printing. If your printer was off, you can still turn it on now and you will not loose any data.

Let's now examine the program in more detail. Notice in Line 30 the P.LP EXT? This tells your Cumana interface that you wish to enable the extra commands. If this is not entered first, entering any of the extra commands will just return a bad line error report. Line 70 had the statement: DATA USE DR\$. This tells the Cumana which drive will be accessed by the spool command

to find your files. DR\$ will just be equal to P.LP1 or P.LP2 (or whatever drive you entered). Line 110 is the spool control...SPL WS. Yes, that's all there is to it! The WS is just the name of your file (with the LIS extension added). To spool any file, just type SPL and the name of the file. The DATA USE statement specifies which drive to access for the file. After you have entered all your file names, the printer will be printing, and the flashing red cursor will be on the screen. Yes, you can now use your QL for other purposes, even while it is printing! Try loading a new program while something is being printed...it will work fine. The only real limitation to how much can be spooled or done while spooling is being carried out, is your QL's memory. If you have several large files being printed, you may not be able to load a new program, although you will still have control.

To check on the status of the spooled files, you can enter JOBS and a list of all your spooled files will appear on the screen in the order in which they were spooled. Suppose you send three files to be spooled: file1, file2, and file3. If file1 is currently being printed, and you decide you don't want to print file2 and/or file3, you can remove them by typing RJOB and the number under the "Job Number" column, a comma, the number under the "Job Tag" column (after entering JOBS), another comma, and a 0. This will remove that file from the spool. The following is an example of what is displayed when JOBS is used:

JOB	TAG	OWNER	PRIORITY
0	0	0	32
1	2	10	1 <PL
2	3	8	1 SPL
3	4	7	1 <FL

continued...

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```

20 REMark      @ 10-31 1986
30 REMark      BY JOSEPH NEWMAN
40 CLS
50 FLP_EXT
60 INPUT "Number of files to print?":X
70 INPUT "DRIVE TO USE (1 OR 2)";DRIVE:DR$="FLP"+DRIVE$ " ":DATA_USE DR$:CLS
80 FOR loop=1 TO x
90 STRIP 0;INK 2:AT 0,10:PRINT "WARNING!":STRIP 2:INK 7:PRINT "Once a file is se
nt to the spool it CANNOTbe removed or stopped "
100 INPUT "PLEASE ENTER FILE NAME....(no ext c: crivenecessary)":n$;n$="n&"_LIS'
110 sp1 n$
120 CLS
130 END FOR loop
140 PRINT "CFODDLING COMPLETE."

```



I strongly suggest you do the following: load the INSTALL.BAS program for Quill. Choose EDIT to edit your current printer driver, then change or add the POSTABLE CODE to the code for a form feed on your printer. Then INSTALL this printer driver again. The form feed will now be sent after every file is printed to make sure printing for each file starts on a new page.

If you have any questions or problems you can contact me at: 325 West Jersey Street #20, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

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QL ABACUS/SPREADSHEET

"TIPS" PART I

by
Mike de Sosa

QL Abacus (QL Spreadsheet or QL-SS in its stateside version) is Peilon Ltd.'s excellent spreadsheet program "bundled" with the QL. In the unlikely event you're unsure of just what such a program can do for you, a "spreadsheet" program facilitates the rapid entry of text, data, and formulas into the program and then provides automatically calculated results. Spreadsheet programs are frequently called upon to answer the question "What IF?" regarding long and complex calculations; in this case, any one or more input values may be changed and the new result instantly recalculated. Spreadsheet programs are the second most widely used computer program after word processor programs and one big reason for the popularity of personal computers today.

Spreadsheets are not new: the accountant's worksheet, the navigator's log, the builder's list of materials, and calendars and schedules of all types are forerunners of the concept.

QL Abacus is one of the best spreadsheet programs—certainly one of the easiest to learn and use—and has few limitations. Some other spreadsheet programs have more rows and columns (QL Abacus provides 255 rows and 64 columns—16,320 cells); some have more directly usable commands and functions (QL Abacus could do with more preset statistical functions), and some are more fully integrated with database and other programs, but QL Abacus has enough of everything required for almost any application.

BETTING STARTED WITH QL ABACUS

You can plan a spreadsheet on your computer screen, on plain paper, or on some type of graph or tabular paper. When you plan it, give thought to the export formats used to transfer data to the other "bundled" programs, particularly QL Easel (Business Graphics). Set your data and formulas into the spreadsheet and verify your results without worrying too much about appearance (tabulation, justification, column width, labels, etc.). All of the latter may be taken care of later, if needed. You will usually be looking for a bottom-line result, and you only get points for neatness if the result is to be printed or otherwise displayed.

I won't go into the description of the QL Abacus screen, see the *QL User Guide*, a new book available through *Line Regions*, or run it up on your monitor—it is similar in appearance to other QL software programs.

Enter data or a formula at the cursor location by typing it on the input line and keying ENTER (the program will automatically distinguish between data and formula); enter text by first typing a single or double quotation mark (it is not necessary to end text with a quotation mark). Data entered will appear at the cursor position, formulas will not—only their result. Text will be continued beyond the cell boundary, if necessary.

A stumbling block for many Abacus users is the concept of *cell* (the row) and *column* cell references, the cell reference being the grid coordinates of the cell. Abacus assumes a relative reference, that is, if you enter the formula A1*A2 in cell A3 and then ECHO this formula in cells B3, C3, and D3, the formulas in each cell will be as follows.

CELL	A3	B3	C3	D3
FORMULA	A1*A2	B1*B2	C1*C2	D1*D2

Prefix cell references with a '\$' symbol if they are intended to be absolute, for example,

CELL	A3	B3	C3	D3
FORMULA	\$A1*\$A2	\$A1*\$A2	\$A1*\$A2	\$A1*\$A2

Cell references may be mixed, for example,

CELL	A3	B3	C3	D3
FORMULA	\$A1*A2	\$A1*B2	A1*C2	\$A1*D2

and the '\$' can be used with labels used as cell references, for example, \$Req.sales.

Another stumbling block for spreadsheet novices is the use of formulas. Formulas are distinguished from data in that they always begin with either a cell reference or an Abacus function. A1*A2 entered in cell A3 is a formula, as is INT(1+A2). Formulas may be difficult to understand and even more difficult to invent; following are some tips:

- 1) Break down complex formulas into more readily understandable segments and then link these together
- 2) Use more than one cell to carry out more complex operations
- 3) Use labels to designate cell references
- 4) Learn to use and interpret the "formula" printout version of the Print command sequence.

Some applications require that some or all formulas be stripped from a spreadsheet, leaving the resultant values in place. The easiest way to do this is as follows.

- 1) Note the cell reference and unit type (that is, decimal, monetary, etc.) of the cells from which the formulas are to be removed
- 2) Save the original spreadsheet
- 3) Begin a new spreadsheet
- 4) Enter zero (0) plus the correct unit type in each cell
- 5) Save the new spreadsheet
- 6) Load the original spreadsheet
- 7) Merge the new spreadsheet with the old.

You now have the original spreadsheet with the desired formulas removed, leaving just raw numbers in those cells.

Another hangup with QL Abacus users is getting printouts of spreadsheets to appear the way they want them to (or, in some cases, getting printouts at all). Forget-

ting the screen presentations of spreadsheets does not appear the main problem.

The method of specifying instructions to the printer recommended by the QL User Guide and other books and articles (i.e., use of the CHR() function in the grid) has significant limitations:

- 1) It may cause displacement of text or data on the printout.
- 2) It cannot be used to specify the typeface of the upper grid border.
- 3) It is time consuming and bothersome.

There are better ways: the PREAMBLE, POSTamble, and TRANSLATE sections of the QL Abacus printer driver may be modified using INSTALL_BAS to do this automatically or more simply. I recommend that you produce three printer drivers (PRINTER1_DAT files): one for PICA, ELITE, and CONDENSED typeface pitch, that you include these on your working copy of the QL Abacus program cartridge as PRINTER1_DAT, PRINTER2_DAT, and PRINTER3_DAT and that you select which you will use from the QL Abacus program using the 'Delete' and 'Backup' options of the Files command sequence. First, 'Delete' MDV1_PRINTER_DAT; then, 'Backup' your selection as MDV1_PRINTER_DAT using a command such as 'Backup MDV1_PRINTER3_DAT as MDV1_PRINTER1_DAT' from the Files command sequence.

Modify your printer drivers in the following way:

- 1) Reset the QL, key F1, then place a working copy of QL Abacus in Microdrive 1
- 2) COPY MDV1_PRINTER_DAT TO MDV1 - PRINTER1_DAT (this is PICA, 10cpi, pitch)
- 3) Key in and enter LRUJ MDV1_INSTALL_BAS
- 4) Select EPSON FX-80 and make a screen copy of it by keying F1
- 5) Give the file a new name, e.g., "printcond" and modify the PREAMBLE by keying in and entering the following:

```
27,,27,'R,0,27,71,15
```

(this sets up CONDENSED, 17cpi, pitch)

- 6) Modify the POSTamble by keying and entering

```
27,72,18 (resets PICA pitch)
```

- 7) Enter the following codes in TRANSLATE 2 to 5, respectively:

```
'[,27,45,1 (sets underline on)
```

```
'],27,45,0 (sets underline off)
```

```
^^,27,89 (sets emphasis on)
```

```
^^,27,70 (sets emphasis off)
```

(this establishes symbols which produce the indicated printed result--" is the tilde)

- 8) Install PRINTER1_DAT by keying F5
- 7) Exit INSTALL_BAS and return to SuperBASIC mode
- 8) COPY MDV1_PRINTER1_DAT TO MDV1 - PRINTER3_DAT
- 9) Reset the QL and repeat the procedure from step 3, if you desire to set up a printer driver for ELITE type. (PREAMBLE code 27,,27,'R,0,27,88,2, POSTamble 18)

A B C D E F G H I

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13: Overhead	450	487	470	460	480	470	2827
14:							
15: Total Costs	15890	14487	14440	14160	13780	12770	95147
16:							
17: Miles	7200	7500	7600	7750	7900	7990	45200
18: Gallons	6600	7000	7100	6800	7100	6500	41100
19: PHS	11.00	10.71	10.70	11.48	11.13	11.52	11.48
20: WOLLAR	4.37	4.55	4.62	4.57	4.60	4.46	4.58
21:							
22: BOTTOM LINE:	BUDGET	912,490	COSTS	99,247	SURPLUS	81,155	
23:							
24: 05/01/80							

Figure 1

Figure 1 is an actual-size printout of a QL Abacus spreadsheet, including grid borders, in condensed, double- struck typeface (17 characters-per-inch). Note that the top line is in expanded typeface and the title underlined. The only way to specify the typeface pitch of the upper grid border is by modifying the PREAMBLE of the printer driver using INSTALL_BAS.

#### NEW QL GULL PRODUCTS: QL TURBOGULL

The QL software programs are now orphans. Facon Ltd. does not intend to upgrade them. But we have seen many upgrade programs that are "patched" with QL Guill or mislabeled with it to make it better. KEY-DEFINE, SPELL, Q_CALC, CAPS LOCK indicators, etc., are some examples. But the most important QL Guill accessory program to date is Athens Consultants' QL TURBOGULL. This subtle "patch" to QL Guill reduces the "mess" of the cursor--only a white underscore and overscore mark _ remain--permitting wonder of wonders--a significant speed-up of many screen operations. Copy and Erase operations, and all other cursor movements, are made much more rapid. QL TURBOGULL works with KEYDEFINE and TASKMASTER, and QL TURBOGULL+ (with CAPS LOCK indicator and other enhancements will soon be available--I'll let you know when). Order QL TurboGuill from Athens Consultants, 33 Holly Grove, Fareham Hants. PO16 7UP, England, UK (Tel. 03283) 282083) For \$11.20 (about \$18). Specify your version of Guill when ordering.

#### FINAL TIP

Did you know that you can speed-up QL Guill and other QLSoftware program operation significantly by merely keying F2 and removing the prompt section at the top of the screen? Try it, you'll like it.

**NEXT TIME:** QL Abacus "Tips," Part II, "Everything you ever wanted to know about about QL Abacus Functions and Formulas" plus more new QL products information.

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Continued Next Page.

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